



# ICAR Newsletter

## April 2012

International Committee  
for Animal Recording



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## **A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT: THE 38<sup>th</sup> ICAR BIENNIAL SESSION**

Preparations for the 38th ICAR Biennial Session to be held in Cork, Ireland, 28 May - 01 June 2012, have been well advanced. Over 300 registered participants (and many more that would register during the remaining weeks) will have a rich professional and social program prepared by our host - Cattle Breeders Association of Ireland, ICAR Board, Sub-Committees and Working Groups. Policy and decision makers and technical experts in the worldwide recording and breeding industry will have great opportunity to exchange views and experiences on how can animal recording improve profitability of animal farming. They will discuss new developments in the use of on-farm and on-animal devices for identification and recording and requirements for information systems for farmers in support of increased profitability. I am sure that the discussion on the practical implication of genomics and future organization of animal recording and genetic evaluations will be followed by large number of participants. The Session is expected to offer options on how to keep the balance between commercial, industry good and public good in recording and genetic evaluation. Our hosts have prepared and excellent program of social events as well as an interesting itinerary for accompanying persons.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEE YOU IN CORK!

## **A SET OF NEW ICAR GUIDELINES READY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ICAR Board, Recording Devices Sub-Committee, Milk Analysis Sub-Committee, Interbeef Working Group, Animal Recording Data Working Group, Genetic Analysis Working Group and Functional Traits Working Group have prepared proposals for complete new sections and amendments to the International Agreement and ICAR Guidelines for approval by the General Assembly to be held in Cork.

ICAR Members and individual experts involved in farm animal recording and evaluation were invited to submit their comments to the following files available on the ICAR web site at:  
[www.icar.org/pages/recording\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.icar.org/pages/recording_guidelines.htm)

- Preamble and Sections 1.1 to 1.6 (proposed by the ICAR Board)
- Section 11.6.2 (amendment proposed by Recording Devices Sub-Committee)
- Section 3.2.3.5.6 Chest girth circumference as a predictor of growth (amendment proposed by Interbeef WG)
- "Electronic data exchange for livestock (Business requirement specification). A complete new Section proposed for approval by the Animal Recording Data Working Group
- "Parentage Testing in Cattle" by the Genetic Analysis Working Group
- "Approval procedure for milk analysers in milk recording". A complete new Section proposed for approval by the Milk Analysis Sub-Committee
- "Recording, Evaluation and Genetic Improvement of Health Traits". A complete new Section proposed for approval by the Functional Traits Working Group
- The Animal Identification Sub-Committee is proposing some amendments to Section 10.7 and its Annexes on "Approval of official permanent identification devices. Part 1: conventional permanent plastic eartags with or without machine readable printing" has been proposed for amendments

## **ICAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The draft agenda for the next ICAR General Assembly prepared by the ICAR Board includes statutory items, such as President's and Secretary General's Reports, financial report including Inspectors' report, 2011 Year end Financial Statement and 2013 Budget. The General Assembly will elect new members of the Board among candidates nominated by ICAR Member organizations. The Board will present amendments to ICAR



Guidelines together with comments received from ICAR Members. Delegates from new ICAR Members will have an opportunity to present their respective organizations to the broader audience and declare their expectations from being members of ICAR. Delegates will be informed on new strategic plan approved by the Board, on new fee structure that would be implemented in accordance with the dynamic of the attainment of strategic objectives as set in the strategic plan and on the state and perspectives of services provided to ICAR Members, including the Certificate of Quality. ICAR Awards will be delivered to distinguished experts from the ICAR Member organizations. It is expected that the Extraordinary General Assembly approve changes in the ICAR Statutes as proposed by the Board. Both General Assemblies are open for attendance to all participants at the Biennial Session.

## **ELECTION OF THE BOARD**

Daniel Abernethy, Clara Diaz and Marco Winters terminate their four year term of office as members of the ICAR Board in June 2012. Although they are eligible for re-election for another four year term, ICAR Members are free to nominate other persons as candidates for members of the Board.

## **THE NEW FEE STRUCTURE**

The new fee structure approved by the ICAR Board is based on the number of animals as declared by the members. When a member believes these figures are sensitive and therefore they do not want to share with others, ICAR will keep this information confidential. With the new structure ICAR also needs to accommodate and determine the world breed federations with the fee based on number of members.

The present fee structure is based on 90% contribution from activities related to dairy cattle, 7% to dairy sheep and 3% to dairy goats. The new proposed contribution from dairy cow related activities to 75% and establishes 6% from dairy sheep, 3% from dairy goats, 10% from beef cattle, 2% buffalo and 1-2% meat sheep.

The ICAR fees will be assigned based on the type of service divided in three main areas:

1. Performance Recording and Animal Identification;
2. Genetic Evaluation, and
3. Herd Book Recording.

Also the ICAR fee considers animal species and production type: Dairy cattle, Beef cattle, Dairy sheep, Meat sheep, Goats and Buffalo. The ICAR base fee is Euro 1.000,00 for a Full ICAR Member, Associate ICAR Member and a cooperating International Organization. The Full ICAR Members pay the base fee plus the calculated variable fee(s). The Associate members pay only the base amount. The International Organizations pay the base fee plus an amount based on the number of members in the organisation.

The fee schedule can be brought forward annually for updating based on the inflation rate of Italy on the twelve months from the previous year December to closest December for the period. The inflation rate will be as reported in ISTAT (National Office of Statistics) official figures. The adjustment will be considered and the fee structure will be reviewed and modified by the Board on annual basis.

The new fee structure will be applied in accordance with the dynamic of the attainment of strategic objectives and the introduction of new services.

## **SECRETARIAT'S CONTACTS**

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