



ICAR WGFT meeting with feet and legs experts

Introduction by ICAR WGFT
C. Egger-Danner

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ICAR Berlin

Introduction



- **Motivation / reason for initiative of this meeting**
 - increased importance of animal health in the context of reduction of costs as well as food safety (microbials,..)
 - in cattle breeding the need for working on genetic improvement of feet and legs problems is increasing
 - special interest in claw health (results of recent surveys,..)
 - different countries are starting initiatives and research within this topic
 - ICAR works on standardisation and recording of traits to enable genetic improvement (guidelines,..)

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Agenda



Beginning: 11.00

- Welcome (Egger-Danner)
- Presentation of ICAR (Rosati) (10min)
- Overview of different data sources in the feet and legs complex (Heringstad) (10 min)
- Presentation of situation in the different countries with focus on claw health data (max 10 min per country) I
- Lunch break 12:30 – 13:15
- Presentation of situation in the different countries with focus on claw health data (max 10 min per country) II
- Summary and elaboration of commonalities and common needs
- Further steps

End: 15:30

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ICAR Working Group on Functional Traits

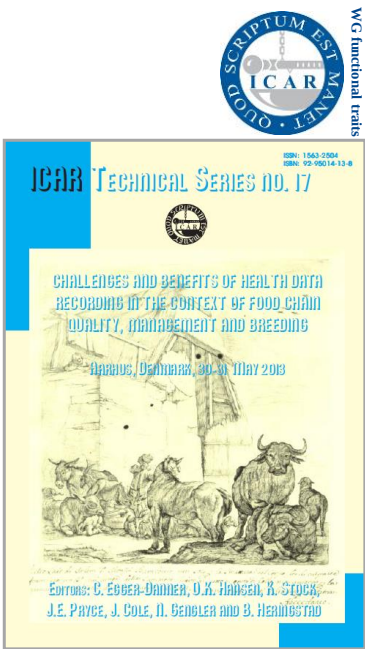


- Promotes the development and improvement of activities of performance **recording** and the evaluation of dairy cattle **within functional traits**
- International non-profit organisation can serve as a platform to share information and knowledge

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Recent activities

- ICAR-survey on functional traits in 2012 (http://www.icar.org/Cork_2012/Presentations/Stock_PPT.pdf)
- ICAR health guidelines - approved 2012
- ICAR health data conference 2013
- ICAR guidelines for female fertility – approved 2014
- ICAR guidelines for udder health - **update in progress**
- **Work on feet and leg problems – ICAR guideline?**



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ICAR International Agreement of Recording Practices

Approval date: June 2012

SECTION 16 - GUIDELINES FOR RECORDING, EVALUATION AND GENETIC IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH TRAITS

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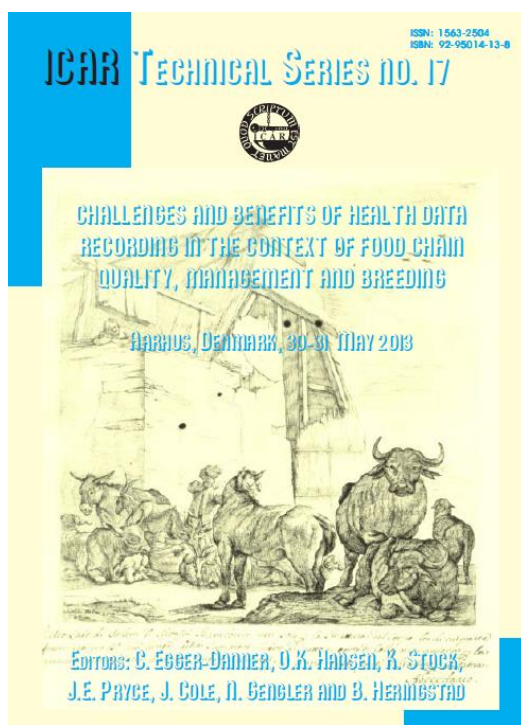
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Standardisation of direct health data (ICAR-guideline)

	Comprehensive key of diagnoses	Reduced key of diagnoses	Simple key of diagnoses
Nr. of diag.	> 900	60-100	10-15
Source	veterinarian	veterinarian	producer
Recording	electronic submission (vet)	vet, performance record., producer	producer
Example	ICAR-guideline: mastitis catarrhalis acute and subacuta, mastitis parenchymatosa acuta and subacuta, ...	E.g. AUT: acute mastitis chronical mastitis;	mastitis

Coding of diagnoses precondition of use!
International cooperation (IDF, ICAR,...) for comparability of results across countries!

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More than 145 participants from 30 countries all over the world representing different disciplines - farmers, veterinarians, representatives of research and dairy industry, breeding and recording organizations, advisory services, administrators.

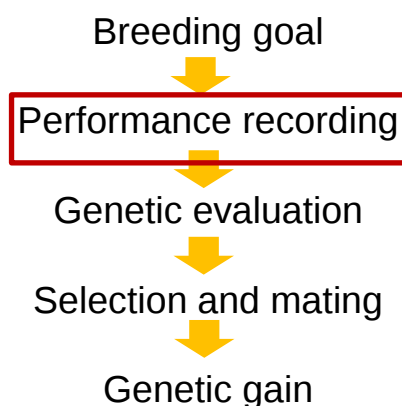
Intention for this meeting of ICAR WGFT with experts



- Farmers are asking more and more for healthy and robust cows; claw health is increasing in importance
- For longterm genetic improvement – genetic evaluation needed
 - very many data needed
- Need for standardization and harmonization for monitoring of claw health
- Overview about recent activities and status concerning claw health data recording
- Is there interest in cooperation towards standardization / harmonization for claw disorders?

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Steps within breeding



Reliable data from performance recording is the precondition for genetic gain in the respective traits.



Questions asked in advance

- *Is there one official key for the different claw disorder codes in the country? How does the key/keys look like?*
- *Organisational structure ? Who is responsible for key of claw disorders?*
- *How many farms/animals are under recording of hoof trimming data (% of population under performance recording)?*
- *How is the logistic of documentation and recording of hoof trimming data? Who is doing the hoof trimming (experts, farmers, ..)? To which percentage? Are the experts employed or private businesses?.....*
- *Are there in routine other feet and leg related scoring system like locomotion scoring? % of cows under performance recording covered?*
- *Is there already a genetic evaluation for these traits concerning feet and legs problems?*

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Overview

	US	CA	FRA	GER	A	NOR	DK	FIN	SWE	GB	NL	ESP	
single key of claw disorders													
responsibility for key and issues of claw health													
% farms under claw recording													
% of professional claw trimming													
% routine recording claw health in database													
logistic (% electronical)													

F=farmer, C=claw trimming expert, O=other

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Overview



	US	CA	FRA	GER	A	NOR	DK	FIN	SWE	GB	NL	ESP	
routine lameness scoring (% of farms)													
genetic evaluation for claw disorders													
documentation of all cows (healthy/sick)													

F=farmer, C=claw trimming expert, O=other

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How do we proceed?



- Do we want to cooperate?
- Which topics?
- Who is ready to contribute and cooperate?
- What are the further steps?

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