

ICAR Newsletter

ICAR SESSION 1996

30th ICAR Meeting.

ICAR members and delegates from over 50 Countries met in the Netherlands for the 30th ICAR session. The ICAR meeting followed an Interbull meeting at the same venue.

Opening the Session

ICAR President Wim Wismans welcomed the delegates to the meeting. The 30th Session was attended by the largest number of delegates attending from the largest number of countries in the history of ICAR. Judging by the numbers now actively involved in the work of ICAR, the organization is meeting its primary objective of, "promoting the extension and improvement of farm animal recording and evaluation through the formulation of definitions and standards for the measurement of traits of economic importance". By coming together to meet in the 30th ICAR Session, the delegates were continuing the work of ICAR as well as meeting to share ideas, knowledge and experience.

The President particularly emphasized the need to work together on national and international levels, to broaden the scope of ICAR activities, on the quality control of recording activities, on the supervision of activities like the international evaluation of breeding values by Interbull, and last but not least on critically examining the aims and structure of ICAR needed to give the services requested to the member organizations.

Professor Brascamp welcomed the delegates and gave an interesting and informative paper on Animal Breeding in The Netherlands. The integrated approach to recording, breed development and AI service provision is a key part of the success of Dutch Dairy farming. For ICAR delegates it was interesting to hear how the integrated approach to providing services facilitates the progress of the dairy industry.

New ICAR Members

Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland (Meat recording organization) India, Argentina (sheep and goats), Latvia, and Rumania have all become ICAR members since the last ICAR Session.

New Special Stamp user

Slovenia has become the latest Member Country allowed to use the ICAR Special Stamp. To qualify Slovenia were inspected by a team of two ICAR Board Members. The Inspectors checked how recording was being carried out in

Slovenia. Full compliance with ICAR Rules and Guidelines is a precondition for the agreement that an Organization may use the Special Stamp.



ICAR MEMBERS WORLD OVER

The Inspection team found that the Slovenian Recording Services were up to ICAR standards in all respects and recommended that the Slovenian Recording Organization should be granted the use of the ICAR Special Stamp.

ICAR Survey

ICAR Vice President J.C. Mocquot gave a preliminary report on the "Evolution of Milk Production and Milk Recording in Member Countries in 1994 and 1995. The trend towards higher yields has continued as did the trend towards larger herds. A full report will be sent to all Members before Christmas by when it is hoped that all Member Organizations will have completed and returned their survey forms. (Editor, please do it now if you're late!)

INSIDE

- ① Report on 30th Session
- ② WHFF Conference
- ③ Award for J. Philipsson
- ④ ICAR tests and approvals
- ⑤ ICAR, who's who and what

ICAR and Developing Countries

ICAR has a Task Force whose role it is to bring together people working in the field of animal recording in the developing countries. The Task Force including an FAO representative had a meeting during the Session where the special requirements for developing countries were discussed.

Delegates were reminded that while the developing countries often have systems of recording less sophisticated than those used in the more developed countries. In the developing countries the farming systems were often traditional systems of production with whole ecosystems linked together to make the most efficient use of scarce resources. The recording systems for developing countries need to meet the requirements of a diverse range of production systems, from the large scale highly intensive to the extremely small scale producer needing a very simple recording system.

It is important that ICAR takes account of production systems that best fit developing countries and produces guidelines that will help those countries to record and evaluate the animals and methods of production that are best suited to the developing country environment.

ICAR and Breed Associations

The ICAR Task Force Breed Associations Chaired by Joseph Crettenand reported on their work to the 30th Session. It was clear that Breed Associations are often also recording organizations with quality of service and accuracy of record standards that are identical with the service objectives of other ICAR Members.

The Task Force report proposed a way forward for ICAR to work more closely with the Breed Associations in the future. The proposals included a suggested change to the ICAR Constitution, which it was agreed should be circulated to Member Countries, together with the Constitutional Issues discussion paper, prior to further discussion at the next ICAR Session. Pro tem, it was agreed that the Task Force should continue with its work and that there should be provision on the ICAR working Groups, that are discussing activities of interest to the Breed Associations, for people with Breed Association experience.

Mr. W. Luff on behalf of the Breed Associations welcomed the initiative from ICAR to work more closely with the Breed Associations. The Breed Associations look forward to participating in the activities of ICAR and are confident that ICAR can provide a missing link in the chain. At present while each breed has a national and often an international organizational structure, there is no one International organization to which all Breed Associations can belong. The Breed Associations feel that provided they can play their part in ICAR, that ICAR could provide the International Guidelines and Standards that are common to all breeds. ICAR could underpin the work of all the organizations that rely on information to promote and improve their breeds.

It was also agreed at the Session that the work of the Task Force should be broadened from the current base of Dairy and Dual purpose Breeds to include the Beef Breed Associations.

ICAR Constitutional Issues

Mr. Batchelor as Chairman of the Sub-Committee Rules and Guidelines described to Delegates the pressures for Constitutional change, that are already and would in the future, place strains on the existing Constitutional structure.

The increasing scope of the activities of ICAR members and the globalisation of the market for service provision, will bring with them, the need to examine and probably to revise, the existing Constitution and Agreement. A series of options for change were described, ranging from the evolutionary to the revolutionary. Whilst it was clear that change was necessary

and desirable, Delegates concluded that a period of reflection was needed and that the options should be discussed again at the next Session.

ICAR and the Environment

One of the Aims of ICAR stated in the Constitution is to "promote the use of records to assess the merit of animals and the farm management systems both of which are intended to increase the profitability of farming". Delegates were treated to two fascinating papers on how records can be used to improve the biological efficiency of production systems and the animals within them.

J. Stoll (Luxembourg) and P. Malkia (Finland) showed how an environmental audit of a production system could be carried out. Both speakers demonstrated that the range of results from participating farmers showed that there was enormous scope for better utilization of scarce and finite biological resources. They also reported that while some farmers managed an efficiently balanced system, others clearly did not. The imbalances identified were not only financially inefficient, they were also indicative of the environmental impact of that farmer on the local environment.

It was clear to all Delegates that in an era when more and more producers will have to account for "environmental Impact", a new series of records will be needed to help producers to farm in an environmentally efficient and responsible manner.

ICAR and Interbull

Interbull Chairman Brian Wickham gave the ICAR members a report on the activities of Interbull. The sub Committee had held a series of well attended meetings during the period since the last ICAR session. In addition to covering the detail of production evaluation techniques Interbull was now turning its attention to the evaluation of other traits.

Work is being undertaken in many member countries on somatic cell count evaluations, fertility, herd life, and the conformation traits. Interbull by holding meetings to discuss progress in these areas is helping to define the standardized methodologies that can be used to ensure that the results produced can be used internationally.

Interbull has also been doing work on the impact of different recording intervals on genetic evaluations and the extent to which additional data e.g. health can be utilized in evaluations. Proceedings of the Interbull meetings are published under separate cover and are available from the Interbull Secretariat at Uppsala in Sweden.

Parallel Sessions

For the first time some of the technical sessions were held in parallel. Separate sessions were held on cow milk recording matters, non dairy trait recording and small ruminant and buffalo recording. The separate sessions provided an opportunity to discuss issues in smaller groups and to recommend areas of work for the working groups and sub committees.

Animal Identification

The recent changes and advances in identification were presented in a series of papers. ISO has formally appointed ICAR as the organization to award RFID manufacturers codes and to administer the ISO compliance testing of new RFID devices. The identification and registration working group are developing test specifications for RFID's and are examining how best to specify on farm trials of identification systems.

Delegates were informed of the latest developments in the use of Boluses for identification and heard papers on the systems and approval procedures in use in some member countries.

Exhibition

Alongside the main conference hall suppliers of services to recording organizations demonstrated what they had to offer. The exhibition hall was also used for coffee and tea breaks and proved a great success with the delegates. Discussions between suppliers and users cleared up several issues of concern, and by attending the meeting suppliers were able to put their points directly to the delegates. Through working together, ICAR and the manufacturers can ensure that the ICAR approval tests meet the needs of the world wide markets.

Other events

In addition to the events and sessions mentioned the news letter (the editor apologizes in advance for not mentioning everyone) there were a whole host of additional papers and discussion sessions. A full report of the proceedings of the 30th Session will be published and will be sent to Members at the end of 1996.

Social activities

Delegates were treated to a uniquely Dutch series of social activities. From a visit to a windmill museum to a dinner in a world war two gun bunker converted to a casino. Delegates had the opportunity to see the social as well as the agricultural side of Holland.

The biggest ever

The 30th Session was the biggest ICAR meeting held to date. Over 350 people attended and participated in the sessions. A tribute to the organizers - well done!

World Holstein Friesian Federation (WHFF) conference in Japan

Wim Wismans, ICAR President, reports on events.

The Federation held its 5th world conference in Japan. Over 700 people from more than 25 countries attended the conference. In addition to papers of interest to breeders world wide the conference considered three items of special interest to ICAR.

Proposals on the WHFF agenda included, liaison with ICAR on the linear trait recording guidelines, the WHFF computer working group data transfer guidelines and a report on the work of the ICAR / World Wide Breed Federations task force. All the proposals and reports were accepted.

The WHFF linear scoring guidelines were used to prepare the ICAR guidelines and will continue to be updated in line with recommendations of the WHFF working group.

The data transfer guidelines have been referred to the ICAR computer group for consideration for inclusion in the ICAR guidelines.

The WHFF have established a working group to look into how issues concerning longevity should be addressed. If a common approach to longevity trait recording can be developed a new jointly agreed guideline could be prepared for inclusion in the ICAR guidelines.

The task force Breed Societies recommended that the World Breed Federations should continue to be represented on ICAR groups considering issues of concern to them and to facilitate better and more timely communication between ICAR and the breed associations. The Task force will continue its work, with Keith Flanan (Canada) taking over HF representation from Duncan Spring (UK) who has retired.

Participants at the WHFF meeting were very interested in the activities of ICAR and were very supportive of the coordinated

approach now being taken by both organizations. As evidence of this they have agreed to arrange their next Board meeting in New Zealand to link up with the next ICAR Session.

International award for Jan Philipsson

Interbull secretary Jan Philipsson has been awarded the 1996 International Dairy Production Award. The award was presented at the 91st meeting of the American Dairy Science Association. The award was in recognition of Jan's work on fertility, health and other trait evaluations and the incorporation of these results into bull merit indices.

The new measures are in widespread use in the Nordic countries and have set an example that many other countries are now following.

The award also recognized the role that Jan has played in the work of Interbull and the successful establishment of the Interbull center international evaluations.

Our congratulations go to Professor Jan Philipsson.

ICAR Secretary

At the 30th Session Nicholas Frydlander the ICAR and EAAP Secretary General announced his decision to withdraw from both ICAR and EAAP. The Boards of ICAR and EAAP had hoped to have appointed a new Secretary General appointed before the circulation of this news letter. Sadly however this has not proved to be possible and the search is still underway. As soon as the position is filled all ICAR members will be notified.

The Rome office staff, ICAR President Wim Wismans and his assistant Jose' Van Gelder are filling the gap for the time being.

Constitutional issues

The ICAR Board will be discussing how best to progress the discussion of the constitutional issues discussed at the 30th Session. The Board plan to formulate proposals for consideration by the Member Organizations and to circulate these in the new year.

Electronic Identification Devices (RFID's)

ISO have published in their final form the standards on animal identity numbers and on RFID devices to be used in animal identification. ISO have also appointed ICAR as the NGO responsible for organizing the testing of RFID's for ISO standard compliance. As a part of the testing process ISO have agreed that ICAR should allocate codes to each of the RFID manufacturers, to facilitate testing and trial use of the devices.

The Identification and Registration working group decided at their meeting on 20/21 November, that allocation of a manufacturers code and a device approval will be separate procedures. The group also decided that manufacturers codes must be used for all the devices produced by a manufacturer and that the ICAR tests will cover RFIDs and ear tags.

Table 1 on page 4 shows the manufacturers who have so far been allocated codes. As at 1 November 1996 no RFID has been granted either full or provisional ICAR approval. Manufacturers on the code list have demonstrated in the testing laboratories, that the devices tested are compliant with the ISO animal identity code structure and the ISO RFID information transfer standards.

Table 1 below shows the manufacturer codes allocated to date.

Number	Manufacturer	Code
1	Destron	985
2	Nedap	984
3	Texas Instruments	983
4	Allflex	982
5	Datamars	981
6	Diehl-Ident	980
7	Earlsmere I.D.	979

Milk Meters and Jars

Joseph Crettenand Chairman of the Sub-committee reported to delegates on the status of the jars and meters tested by ICAR. The tables below show the position as at 1st November 1996.

List of approved meters

Meter	Manufacturer
Afikim (Fullflow)	SEA Afikim Israel
Dairy-Manager	Surge Babson Bros Co. USA
Flowmaster 2000/ Alpro Flowmaster Pro	Alfa Laval Agri AB Sweden
JM 100	Alfa Laval Agri AB Sweden
Manuflow 2 and Manuflow 21	AB Manus Sweden
Meltec (Memolac 2)	Westfalia Separator Ag. Germany (Nedap Poesz BV. The Netherlands)
Metatron	Westfalia Separator Ag. Germany
Molko-Scope MKII	Alfa Laval Agri AB, Sweden
MR 2000 (Combina 2000)	Gascoigne Melotte. The Netherlands
Tru-Test Auto sampler	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand
Tru-Test F	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand
Tru-Test HI	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand
Waikato MK5	Inter Ag, New Zealand

List of provisionally approved meters

Meter	Manufacturer
Bou-Matic M+ milk meter	Bou-Matic Dairy Equipment Division of DEC International USA
Bou-Matic Perfection 3000	Bou-Matic USA
Level Milkmeter	Nedap Poesz BV. The Netherlands
Tru-Test HI Fast Empty	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand
Tru-Test WB	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand

List of meters currently under test

Meter	Manufacturer
Dairy Master Weighall	E.P. Harty and Co. Ltd. Ireland

List of meters currently under test (continued)

Favorit International	Agro-Vertriebsgesellschaft GmbH Germany
Free-Flow	SCR Engineers Ltd. Israel
Lactocorder	Werkzeug- und Maschinenbau Berneck AG. Switzerland
Pulsameter 2	Labor- und Messgeräte GmbH, Impulsa Germany
Tru-Test Ezi-Test	Tru-test Ltd. New Zealand.

Members of the ICAR Board

Position	Name	Telephone	Fax
President	Wim Wismans	31 26386 1122	31 26386 1212
Vice President	Brian Wickham	64 7856 0823	64 7856 2428
Vice President	Jean-Claude Mocquot	33 14004 5204	33 14004 5299
Member	Douglas Batchelor	44 1249 467264	44 1249 462002
Member	Joseph Crettenand	41 31910 6111	41 31910 6199
Member	Phil Dukas	1 614 8903 630	1 614 8903 667
Member	Kamlesh Trivedi	91 26922 4185	91 26924 40185
Secretary General		39 6442 38013 6442 41466	39 6442 41466

Chairmen of ICAR and Interbull Groups

Committee	Chairman
Interbull	B. Wickham
Constitution and Guidelines	D. Batchelor
Meters and Jars	J. Crettenand
Lactation Calculation Methods	A. Rosati
Computer developments	P. Dukas
Health and fertility Recording	G. Bratt
Milk Testing Laboratories	O. Leray
Animal Identification and Registration	R. Pauw
Conformation recording	J. Stoll
Milk Recording of goats	A. Flanagan
Milk recording of sheep	F. Barillet
Beef performance recording	E. Rehben
Milk recording of Buffaloes	F. Miglior
Task force Development Fund	K. Trivedi
Task force Breed Associations	J. Crettenand

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