



## Newsletter No 7 May 2012

On 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2012, WHFF Council held its annual meeting in Rome. In addition to arranging the WHFF Type Harmonisation Workshop for classifiers and the World Conference and General Assembly, Council has approved the introduction of several new programmes and recommended the introduction of a number of new initiatives to assist Herdbook Associations to continue promoting the Holstein breed. A brief summary is provided in the Newsletter. Full details will be available at; <http://www.whff.info> .

**Virtual Cow:** The key product is the launch of the English language version of the WHFF Virtual Cow linear training program that will be launched on the web site in May, followed by French, German and Spanish language versions. The program continues to build on the commitment of WHFF to ensure international harmonisation of type traits through quality training and educational programs. The programs will be available to members in the PIN protected membership section.

**Fertility** is a challenge to all high performance dairy cows. Council have conducted a literature review and will soon launch a web based survey for members to participate in; the intention is to produce a detailed document on fertility in the dairy cow population for distribution to all our members as a possible aid to management and breeding decisions.

**Genomics** is the key word being used in cattle breeding today. Developments throughout the world are ongoing and WHFF is collating layman's information for members to have access to on the web to give an appreciation of the progress internationally.

<http://www.whff.info/info/genomics.php>

**Registration Working Group** is focusing on the herdbook recording procedures for Polled and Haplotypes recessives. A full report and recommendations will be given at the 2012 General Assembly.

**ICAR** General Secretary Dr Rosati met with Council to discuss developing a

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closer working relationship between organisations. Herdbook Association core business centres on Registration, Identification, Parent Verification and Type Classification. Cooperation in all these sectors would be beneficial to both organisations in particular and the wider dairy industry in general.

**Electronic Data Exchange:** Council are exploring the possibility of developing and upgrading the existing WHFF exchange format.

**Sire Parentage:** The development of genomics and use of SNP information has resulted in the improvement of the accuracy of parentage identification to new levels from the historical microsatellite techniques. Inevitably there will be a very small number of AI Sires that have been misidentified. The problem is that there is no central point by which Herdbook Associations can obtain the information. To address the problem WHFF has launched a web based information services where the old and new identity of the sire is available to interested parties. All we ask is that if this problem has occurred in your Herdbook please inform us in order that we can put the information on the web site.

[http://www.whff.info/info/changeintaisir\\_epart.php](http://www.whff.info/info/changeintaisir_epart.php)

### **WHFF Conference**

Time is closing in on the Conference, tours and events. It is a great package that has appeal to everyone, especially Holstein enthusiasts. The first Youth programme will bring together people from all over the world to participate in a number of events and forums. Full

programme of events and booking details are available on <http://www.whff.info/index.php?content=links&>

**Look for, and click on, the logo for more information.**



### **Type Harmonisation Workshop**

The Head Classifiers workshop is arranged for 3/4 November 2012, close to Niagara Falls USA.

The workshop is open to Head Classifiers and technical associates of fully paid up members of WHFF. The workshop will take on the challenge of the assessment of difficult low heritability traits, and provide an opportunity for classifiers to demonstrate their country's linear inspection programs and hardware. There is also an open forum to discuss the international requirements of linear type evaluation in different farming environments. An event not to be missed if you want to improve the linear classification techniques in your country to the recognised International harmonised standard.

Full details are available from: - <http://www.whff.info/documents/BookingForm10thWorldClassifierWorkshop.pdf>

**New Members** WHFF welcomes two new members, The Asociacion Holstein Friesian del Ecuador and the Holstein Community of Uganda.

Membership continues to expand with enquiries from several countries.

### **New Council Member**

Mr Hironori Otomo, Japan attended his first meeting of Council representing Asia.



2012 Council members: left to right K Christensen, H Otomo, L Chazo, G Burchiellaro, E Feddersen, J Meyer, D Bieri, D Hewitt, M Shaffer, B van Doormaal and J Buiting.

### **The South American Congress**

organised a very successful meeting and classification harmonisation workshop, which was conducted by Gabriel Blanco, CONAFE. Classifiers from a number of South American countries attend the meeting ensuring that the WHFF classification programme continues to expand internationally.

<http://www.whff.info/SouthAmericanClassificationWorkshop.htm>



Gabriel Blanco (wearing red shirt) with the Classifiers from South American.

For all the latest WHFF News log onto <http://www.whff.info/index.php?content=links&>