

WORLD HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN FEDERATION



NEWSLETTER No1

Welcome to the first WHFF Newsletter. The General Assembly in the Republic of Ireland recommended that we have far greater communication with our members and the Newsletter is one of the initiatives we are introducing. It is intended to publish two Newsletters per year to report on Council's activities and general Holstein activities. If you have any news from your organisation that you would like to share please email the details to whff@btinternet.com and we will try to include it in the next Newsletter or place it on the web.

WHFF Council met during April, in Frankfurt, Germany. The meeting resulted in many of the subjects raised by members at the 2008 General Assembly being discussed and positive action taken for introduction in the future. The conclusions to the WHFF strategic plan will be discussed further and finalised at the October meeting, which is being held at Madison.

Actions that have commenced are: WHFF has a feature article in the July edition of Holstein International, with options for individual Holstein Associations to have features.

The Electronic Data Exchange (EDE) working group is investigating new

and far more comprehensive data transfer systems, to ensure all data on import/exported animals is readily available to individual organisations. This project is still being fully evaluated and should deliver considerable savings to members who have imported or exported significant numbers of animals.

WHFF has met with ICAR and other international organisations to seek greater cooperation with task forces and working groups; the intention to work more efficiently. Discussions are positive and ongoing and will be fully discussed by Council in October

We have instigated a number of changes on the WHFF web site. The main change is that much of the information is now in a downloadable format, which should assist members in administering their herdbook's. The latest Type Classification information and diagrams are featured as a file, as also is the latest international herdbook statistic page. This concept we hope to extend during the year with emphasis on providing standardised herdbook activities and recommendations to assist further globalisation and reciprocity of Holstein programmes.

WHFF will launch a new and redesigned member's web site

during the summer. We are intending to have many new features included on the site, focusing on proving members with a wide range of information about Holsteins and Breed Association activities. There will be a PIN protected members section and blog that is intended to be used to improve communications and share experiences between organisations, in addition to extending the download facilities.

2010 World Classifiers Workshop

An important date for your diary will be the next World Classifiers Workshop. This will be held in France at the end of February 2010. Invitations to members will be sent out as soon as the details and dates are confirmed. This is a great working group and training session and we urge all countries to send their head classifier. The experience will be of tremendous value to your organisation.

Thank you to the many organisations that have sent in Champion photographs. The gallery is expanding and provides an ideal opportunity to obtain additional publicity for your members animals. Please send in the photographs its easy and very effective publicity.

The Web Show and Event page has been extended to include both national and local shows with hyperlinks directly to the show administration. This should be of great benefit to exhibitors and visitors alike. To be included in this section please email details of 2009 shows to WHFF.

In the future each Newsletter will have a special focus on one of our member's organisation. If you would like to tell us about your organisation, please send me details in about 1000 words

Welcome to New Members

Council approved two new applications for membership: Costa Rica and Latvia

Costa Rica: Asociación de Criadores de Ganado Holstein de Costa Rica.

Founded in 1977, by a group of breeders seeking to form an organisation for the Holstein Breed, it was established according to National Association Laws and statutes; there are three employees: an Executive Director, a Herdbook Secretary and a support employee

The Association is controlled by an elected Board of Directors

The main objectives of the Association are to disseminate, increase and improve the Holstein Breed throughout the country, as well as provide services and advice to members. In order to achieve these goals, the Association develops programs in different areas, such as Herd Book, Classification, Fieldtrips and Farm Visits, Shows, and the InfoHolstein CR Magazine.

Currently, the Association has 143 active members, and four honorary members registering 3000 registrations per year. There is also a well developed Classification Program. The Association participates in local and national cattle shows, providing support to breeders as well as local committees. The Association produces a magazine 3 times a year, which informs of matters related to the Association as well as technical articles. In addition at least 4 field trips a year are organised to different farms, providing breeders with technical information and demonstrations.

Latvia: The Animal Breeders Association of Latvia was founded in 1993 by a group of Holstein Breeders with the aim of improving the local black and white breed by the use of Holstein genetics. The Association's main objectives are: To maintain the herdbook, develop perspective breeding programs, evaluate animal breeding values, organise cattle markets, import semen and cooperate with international Holstein breed organisations. Currently there are 120 members, registering 8000 young animals per annum. The organisation is controlled by a Board of Directors and breeding specialists. For Latvian Holstein farmers it is important to cooperate with other counties in world, with an emphasis on using superior genetics to develop and improve the Holstein breed in Latvia.

Please Help

WHFF is currently updating each countries registration and production statistics. If you have not submitted your 2008 figures please send the details to the WHFF office as soon as possible to ensure our records are accurate. WHFF is continually receiving more requests for information and it is therefore important that the statistics are up to date and that fully paid up members of WHFF are featured throughout the web pages. The development of the new web site will provide members with additional benefits of membership of WHFF, a point requested at the 2008 General Assembly. WHFF really needs your assistance to help us achieve these targets

Introducing Council

The WHFF Council is due to meet in October 2009, at Dairy Expo, Madison. If you have any issues that you would like Council to consider please contact your regional representative who will bring the matter to the attention of Council.



Council Members from left to right

Front Row

Emiko Ogawa (translator)
Liliana Chazo, Argentina
Sylvie Garreau, France
Giorgio Burchiellaro, Italy

Middle Row

Fujimura Tadihiko, Japan
Keld Christensen, Denmark
Keith Flaman, Canada
Egbert Feddersen (President)
Germany
David Hewitt, General Secretary

Back Row

Dan Meihak, USA (deputising for J Meyer)
Matthew Shaffer, Australia
Jos Buiting, Netherlands