

The 36th WHFF Council Meeting was held in Queretaro, Mexico in March 2019. The Council continue to share information about the industry within their regions. They discussed the international importance of the Holstein Cow, the work of the Working Groups and the organisation of the 2020 Conference. The Council had a very informative visit to Rancho Fuentezuelas, the farm of Ignacio Cervantes Gutiérrez.

If you have any concerns you wish the Council to discuss, please either get in touch with your regional representative or email worldholstein@gmail.com



Gene Editing

Gene Editing is a new technology allowing for the alteration of the genome, by exchange, addition or deletion of nucleotides to develop animals with altered or modified DNA. The sequences used in the alteration process may originate from the same animal species or derive from a different species entirely. Precision breeding uses gene editing to make small adjustments to the genome of an animal to delete, repair or replace individual elements of their respective DNA. Gene editing and precision breeding are technologies for providing new options not only for the dairy industry.

Gene editing enables precise and intentional changes in the genetic material of plants and animals used in food production, which can improve their health and sustainability. The technology can allow farmers to be more efficient while using less water, land, nutrients and other resources.

The **WHFF Monogenetic Traits and Registration WG** has been working with the WHFF Council regarding the coding for Gene Editing.

It has been decided that WHFF will recommend members use GEC (cisgenesis – using genes from within species) and GET (transgenesis – using genes

from another species) to indicate the type of gene editing. This code should be available on all official documentation, including the animal's Zootechnical Certificate and on supplementary documentation, ideally as a suffix to the animal's name. It can then be traced back through the pedigree, showing which animals originate from gene-edited ancestry.

Clones

Cloned animals coding was originally discussed by the WHFF Council in 2006 and a document was created that is available on the WHFF website under Registration Guidelines.

This code should be available on all official documentation, including the animal's Zootechnical Certificate and on supplementary documentation, ideally as a suffix to the animal's name. The WHFF Council has agreed that each Breed Association should establish a policy and procedure relating to the registration of progeny of a clone.

(Note: Holstein Canada records ETA – if cells are from an adult animal or foetus and ETN if cells are from an embryo. Holstein USA uses ETN when naming all clones.)

Full details are available on the WHFF website.

The Genetic Trait and Registration WG has held Skype meetings discussing the topics of gene editing nomenclature and continuing to review the standardised labelling of genetic traits document. The new version is available on the WHFF website at <http://www.whff.info/documentation/documents/StandardizeLabellingofGeneticTraitCoding2019.pdf>.

Type Harmonisation WG is finalising the new definition of Angularity following the workshop last year. The revised Document will be available soon on the WHFF web site.

15th Holstein Congreso de las Americas



Brazil did an outstanding job hosting the most recent Conference de las Americas. Representatives from 11 countries met to discuss key issues, while judges and classifiers held in class and on-farm workshops. Brazilian producers and industry leaders joined the group for a panel discussion on farm succession and youth programs, with case studies from Argentina, Brazil and Canada. Farm visits and participation at the most impressive AgroLeite show rounded out the program. The group will meet in Costa Rica in 2021.



15th World Holstein Conference 22nd to 28th March 2020



The speaker session topics are as follows:

- Holstein Cow can do anything - the economic choice;
- feed efficiency, sustainability, low methane emissions
- new trends and traits for the future; the challenges of sensor technology for herd books
- Data ownership and integrated use.

The speakers that we have secured are international world experts in their field, and we are delighted to welcome them to the WHFF conference.

More program details can be found on <https://www.whff2020.ch>

Early Bird Registration for the WHFF 2020 Conference is open until October 31st 2019.

The 14th World Classifiers Workshop will be held from 23rd to 25th March 2020 in Montreux, Switzerland. Registrations for the workshop must be sent in before 31st October 2019. See <https://www.whff2020.ch> for more details.

The 13th European Championship Show was held in April 2019 in Libramont, Belgium.

The Holstein Grand Champion was Du Rahun Chelios HELINE (Switzerland).



The Red Holstein Grand Champion was
Pasteque (Switzerland)



Full results are available on the EHRC website
<http://euholsteins.com>.

European Judges Harmonisation

A workshop for the harmonisation of the European Holstein Judges took place from 16 to 18 July 2019 in Limerick/ Ireland. The aim of the workshop is to harmonize the work of the judges, their ranking of cows at shows and to teach them good and understandable reasoning. Thirty-eight Judges from fourteen different countries took part. Twenty-three participants completed the workshop successfully and after qualifying a second time, ten new judges have entered onto the European Judges Panel. The panel now consists of 41 judges from 14 countries. The list of Judges is available at <http://www.euholsteins.com/info/judgespanel.php>.

WHFF Web Site

Please remember to send in news stories, show details, pictures of your Holstein Champions for the web site: www.whff.info

