INFORME

To:	Nuris Rusch, Liliana Chazo
From:	Gabriel Blanco
Subject:	II taller Americano de Calificación
Date:	12 al 16 de marzo 2012
Place:	Mercedes (Uruguay), Gualeguaychu (Argentina)
Sponsor:	Santa Paula, La Pastoral, Rincón de Francia, El Dacca
Countries:	Uruguay, Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, España

……

The 2nd American Classification Workshop took place on both sides of Uruguay river from 12 till 16 March, being ACHA and Holando Breeders Society of Uruguay the hosts and responsible for the excellent organization of the event.

There was significant participation of the technical classifiers, who harmonized and consolidated worldwide classification criteria, adapting the recommendations in the last meeting 2010 in Paris, to their programs.

Theoretical Part

1. The topics dealt with in the last meeting in Paris, were exposed adapting these to the approved recommendations by the WHFF.

2. It was discussed about the importance of the Body Condition to the dairy herds to obtain the Genetic Indexes to help to breed "robust" cows and to look for bulls with better fertility indexes.

3. The Organization of the Workshop elaborated a questionnaire on practical aspects of classification system, which confirms the uniformity in the way of working in all participant associations.

4. Regarding the history or current situation of the classification, it is pointed out the need for each country to follow an statistical analysis of every activity relating to classification: When did it start?, how?, why?, the date of starting of traits scoring, date of changes in the classification program, length and date of starting the rounds, description of linear traits, evolution, classifications standards, rounds organization, classification program, regions, defects, classification tables, classifiers meetings, recording, etc…

5. Recording and monitoring of classification. It is the part of classification system that ensures that the data recording in farms is being recorded into desirable parameters to obtain favorable genetic correlations between classifiers and countries. The aim is that every classifier defines the traits in the same way and they obtain good heritability for trait as well as the same average and distribution of traits.

Practical Part

The chosen places to work were good organized and first calf heifers were evaluated, even though multiparous cows, with categories from Average to Excellent, all of them didactical and contributing to create a positive work environment for discussion and harmonization of the group.

In addition to 18 main traits scored and the regions, on that occasion it was emphasized in the classification of locomotion, rear legs rear view, foot angle and body condition, as the main traits of the 18 traits.

Rear legs rear view and foot angle are traits that sometimes we have to score under unfavorable conditions and could affect the good quality data recording: the solution to this problem will be to base on contrasted points of reference (line of hair in foot angle) and fight and follow insisting in looking for good places with cleaner and solid floor to better classify our cows.

The time spent in practical session was enough to discuss and argue the cows between all of us and in groups of 4 or 5 people, which improve the discussions and to better achieve the goals

3 April, 2012