CONGRESO HOLSTEIN DE LAS AMERICAS 2013

III American Classifiers Workshop

Document: Meeting report

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Dates: October 9th and 10th
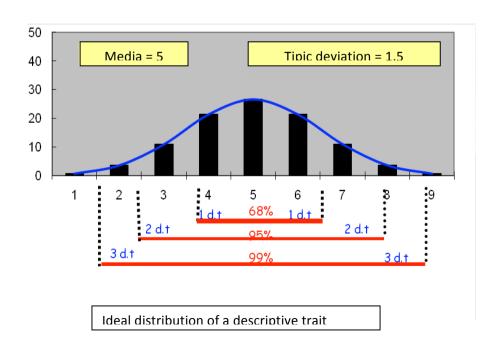
Countries: Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, Perú, Ecuador, Brasil, Colombia, España

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A.- Presentations

- Vicente Argoitia from Argentina explained the Classification System in his country, with details from its beginning to nowadays and pointing its importance for the dairy farm.
- Claudio Estefan from Uruguay did the same with the system in his country giving details on the difference with other programs.
- Gabriel Blanco gave a presentation about Control and Monitoring of classifications and classifiers, with special emphasis on the importance for every country to define the traits in the same way, and to be constant and precise at the moment of assigning the numeral codes to each classified cow every day.
  That is to get good quality of information from the farms. If so, there should be a uniform distribution of values with a media of 5 and a deviation of 1.5

Ideal distribution of a descriptive trait

There are four possible types of classifiers as for the daily information in farms from which 1 is the ideal to reach.

ACCURATE AND SLOPE

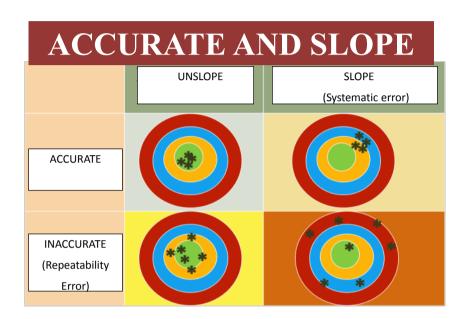|	UNSLOPE	SLOPE (Systematic error)
ACCURATE		
INACCURATE (Repeatability Error)		

Chart 2. Different types of Classifiers

1. <u>Accurate and unslope</u>. He knows the scale and uses it in the same way. He is a classifier with good correlations with the rest and good heritability in his data
2. <u>Accurate and slope</u>. He has his own scale and he always uses it in the same way: maniatic. He would have low correlation with the rest but good heritability.
3. <u>Inaccurate and unslope</u>. He knows the scale but does not hit with the correct numbers. He would have good correlations with the rest of the classifiers but low heritability en his data.
4. <u>Inaccurate and slope</u>. He does not apply the official scale and does not hit with the right numbers. This classifier would have low correlation with the rest and also low heritability.

Body Condition: official definition

The value is given to the subcutaneous fat gathered in determined parts of the body: loin, fore ribs, sacrum, ileum, pin bone and tail head. It is not a real linear trait.

   1-3 Poor   3-5 Intermediate   7-9 Fat

The loin and short ribs are the fundamental areas where we have to observe for the points from 1 to 6. The tail head should be observed for points between 7 and 9: when there is or it begins to be fat gathered in the tail head we have to think that we are in values of 7, never before.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tail	None	Deeply Sunken	Sunken	Sunken	Sunken Ligament	Almost loaded	Loaded	Tall&loaded w/ Fat	Everthing
Sacrum	Flesh	Prominent Sacrum	Prominent Sacrum	Prominent Sacrum	Prominent & Rounded	Rounded Sacrum	Rounded	Flat - not distinguished	Is
Ileum	Over it	Very Prominent	Prominent	Prominent	Slightly layer of Fat	Fat Covered	Fat covered	Rounded	Fat
Short ribs	Skeleton	Rear Ribs easly shown	Rear Ribs easly shown	Ends Easly shown	Rounded w/ slightly layer of Fat	Shows some ends	Unshow ends	Not distinguish	
Loin							Covered & round	Flat	

References for code 5 and 6: When we observe a clear U in the triangle formed by the pin bone-thurl-ileum (there is not fat in the tail head yet): if what we see is a V, we would be in values of 4 or less.

B.- Practice

The group visited the farms Don Aladino and Bartolomé where 40 heifers of 1º calving and 20 of more than one, under same circumstances of work, and divided in 3 groups for a better discussion of results, were valued.

Each classifier gave his classifications sheet before final discussion of each individual cow for valuation and study.

The traits with more discussion between classifiers were Rear Udder attachment and ligament, where everybody get conscious after criteria unification of the importance of scales at the time of defining a trait in its whole biologic range correctly, being adapted sometimes to reality in each country to facilitate a better distribution of the data.

Final score in cows is based in weights and selection objectives of each country and they do not always agree/coincide. At this time and after two previous workshops, it can be said that traits of cows are defined the same by all attendees and as in major world programs, extreme values often produce discussions.