WHFF Report of the 13th WHFF World Classifiers Workshop held at Shifnal, UK 9 – 11 September 2018

By Gabriel Blanco (Chair of the WHFF Type Harmonisation WG)

Hosted by Holstein UK, the 47 WHFF participants attended the very well organized Classifiers Workshop. During these 2 days head classifiers and geneticists from 25 different countries worked on harmonizing type traits by discussing their definitions and biological extremes. As you would expect most time was spent on those traits that needed more improvement due to lower correlations (Interbull correlations below 0,80).

Delegates had the opportunity to score first calf heifers and discuss and harmonize traits at 2 farms, Woodmarsh and Styches´s. At each farm 15 loose animals were divided into five groups each with a group leader (an experienced working group member), and with lots of space so that the small teams could work easily and discuss traits freely within the group. Discussions were very positive, everybody agreed on the clear definitions of traits that needed improvement, and of course, Angularity was one of those. For better understanding and assessment in the future, the WG will also keep improving the trait drawings.

Theoretical sessions were divided into different topics and it was interesting how countries agreed on new traits like front feet orientation, udder balance, etc. 18 presentations were made at the theoretical sessions; all of them were very interesting for the group and easy and nice to follow. Genetic and phenotypic correlations among traits are very important data to improve harmonization so countries need to keep sending information in the future to the working group when requested

Thanks to Holstein UK and of course to Woodmarsh farm and Styches farm for contributing to the work harmonizing type traits and comparing our genetics around the world.