

# World Holstein Friesian Federation



## Newsletter No 4 February 2011

The 2011 WHFF Council meeting took place in the Buenos Aires offices of the Association Criadores de Holando Argentino (ACHA), the Holstein Association Herdbook of Argentina. The theme of the meeting was 'the impact of genomics on Holstein breeding and Holstein Associations', and the opportunities this offers for the future. Council also reconfirmed its commitment to supporting research into Holstein fertility, type conformation, functional traits, electronic data transfer, parentage recording and importantly continuing the improvement in communications with members through the WHFF web site:-

### Genomics

Globally, Holstein Associations will adopt different business strategies, depending on their corporate structure, to take full advantage of the genomic revolution. One consideration is that registration income will likely to decline, which could be offset by income from other membership services. Many Holstein Associations are becoming 'partners' in the members business by offering a range of professional and independent management and advisory services. Internationally Herdbook Associations have a strong reputation as the brand of 'independence' which should be fully utilised in structuring new farmer focused breeding and management programs. In addition, animal welfare is playing an ever increasing role in breeding. Type evaluation and genetic mating programs may be important factors in addressing this important challenge.

Changes to services, such as Type Classification, which is set to decline as traditional progeny testing decreases, could be offset by using linear classification information in mating programs and proving type indexes for heifers. To fully utilise these opportunities Holstein Associations should consider reviewing the structure of Classification; for instance, Classifiers could provide breeding advice based on breeding values, not specific bulls, in addition to other herdbook services

### The Challenges of change for Herdbook Associations

We have only detailed one sector of possible change - Classifiers becoming advisors on breeding, yet remaining independent. However, there are far more opportunities for Holstein Associations to develop using existing resources: -

- Registration data is essential in the short term. Three generations are required.
- Holstein Associations should become actively involved in genotyping.
- Genomics is a new way for Herdbooks to collect information.
- Holstein Associations are ideally placed to collect the information and provides an opportunity to work with the 'genomic companies.'

### Council Meeting: ACHA Offices



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Web: [www.whff.info](http://www.whff.info)

Email:  
[whff@btinternet.com](mailto:whff@btinternet.com)  
Telephone: 44 1923 283944

These new opportunities, when added to the existing and traditional Association activities should ensure that the Holstein breed and its breeder's continue to prosper well into the future.

### **Parentage Recording.**

WHFF has joined the ICAR working group on Parentage Recording. Currently parent validation may only be officially completed by DNA Microsatellite testing. Genomic SNP testing offers the chance of parentage validation from one sample. WHFF recommend that ICAR should take the initiative and adopt a SNP panel as quickly as possible for parentage validation and stop the need for unnecessary duplication and cost.

### **Fertility Task Force.**

The Task Force, under the leadership of WHFF Vice President, Matthew Shaffer, continues to investigate the options and advice available to breeders. The intention is to collate all the information that is available globally and present this in the members section of the WHFF web site for exclusive membership use.

### **Electronic Data Exchange**

The development of an electronic data exchange between Herdbooks continues to gain importance as more genetic information is gathered and international trade expands. To ensure all aspects of the global industry are involved, WHFF will be meeting with ICAR to establish if a joint development program is feasible and eliminate any possible duplication. WHFF has a timeline of completion for the project of 2012 World Conference.

### **Genetic Recessives**

Council confirmed the coding for Brachyspina, the details of which are available on the web site. It was agreed to publish, on the web site, the procedures for testing.

Council also confirmed that the coding for 'Polled' was available on the web site.

### **Membership Fee.**

Council confirmed it would continue the 25% discount on membership fees maintaining the 2009/10 prices. Council are also conducting a review of membership fees to ensure fairness amongst all our members. Full details of this project will be available at the General Assembly.

### **Type Harmonisation**

The next World Head Classifiers type harmonisation workshop will be held in the northern USA and associated with the WHFF 2012 World Conference, in Canada. Preliminary dates are 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Further details will be posted on the WHFF web site.



### **Type Harmonisation Working Group**

Bernardo Busso. (Argentina)  
John Gribbon. (UK)  
John Connor. (USA)  
Tom Byers. (Canada)  
Corrado Zilocchi. (Italy)  
Arie Hamoen. (The Netherlands),  
Chairman.  
Dr. Stefan Rensing. (Germany)  
Gabriel Blanco. (Spain)  
Nobuo Ohnishihi. (Japan) (absent)

### **WHFF members providing registration and genomic services in other WHFF member countries;**

Council had received a number of complaints concerning the possible breach of WHFF reciprocity agreements. This pertained to situations when a foreign Herdbook Association offers services in another country; WHFF was not against competition, however Council recommended that the Association offering the service should

contact the resident Herdbook Association and discuss the provision of services.

### **2012 World Conference**

Hosts for the 2012 Conference, Holstein Canada, had already completed the initial planning. The full programme of events, planned between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2012, are divided into three sections; The WHFF Conference is organised in the mid section, between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 and includes for the first time a 'World Youth Holstein Conference.' These WHFF events are preceded by visits to the Quebec International Holstein shows and farm visits. After the WHFF Conference, the programme schedule concludes with a visit to the Toronto Winter Fair.

A full programme of events and booking details are available on [www.whff/info](http://www.whff/info)

**Look for, and click on, the logo for more information.**



### **2016 Conference**

The tradition of WHFF is to nominate the next hosts of the WHFF Conference at the 2012 General Assembly. Hosting the Conference provides Holstein Associations with a unique opportunity to promote their Holstein breeding and their dairy industry to the Holstein World. Are you interested? Then email [whff@btinternet.com](mailto:whff@btinternet.com) and apply for organising the 2016 WHFF Conference. Applications before March 2012.

### **WHFF Web site**

The web site is gaining in popularity as we receive more and more visitors. It provides you with the opportunity to promote your organisation and provide facts about your country, plus keeping up to date with WHFF activities. WHFF sub-committee, EHRC, has also launched its own web site, [www.euholsteins.com](http://www.euholsteins.com) which provides facts and figures on the European Herdbooks and countries.

### **Council visit to Mr F Martinez & Sons Sorianita Farm, Argentina**



### **Diary Dates**

25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

**XI Congreso Holstein De Las America, Santa Cruz De La Sierra, Bolivia.**

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

**European Holstein & Red Holstein Confederations Conference and General Assembly. Stockholm, Sweden.**

25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

**WHFF Council Meeting, Rome Italy.**

2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

**World Head Classifiers Type Harmonisation Workshop. USA.**

1<sup>st</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**WHFF World Conference and associated events, Canada.**