

After the hugely successful World Conference and General Assembly in Canada it was back to business at the 30<sup>th</sup> WHFF Council meeting, which took place in Amsterdam on 18/19 April 2012. Council focused on the requirements of Herdbook Associations and the challenges they faced with the introduction of new technologies. In addition a number of appointments were confirmed in the Working Groups.

This Newsletter also features Holstein Champions from five Continents represented on the WHFF Council; North America, South America, Australia, Asia and Europe.

## WORKING GROUPS.

### Type Harmonisation Working Group

Council approved the appointment of 4 new members to replace retiring members.

Bruno Jubinville (Canada)

Vicente Argoitia. (Argentina)

Denis Aitken (New Zealand)

Uehara Tomoichiro (Japan).

### Registration Working Group

Irma Robertson (USA) had retired and would be replaced by Peter Cole (USA).

Dr Ben Hayes was confirmed as Scientific Advisor.

All existing appointments confirmed.

### Parentage Verification Subcommittee:

Council invited Mrs S Harding (UK), chairperson of the ICAR parentage-working group, to the sub-committee.

### Electronic Data Exchange Working Group

WHFF had conducted a survey amongst its members. The result of the survey indicated that although there was a need to update existing data transfer procedures, this was not a priority. In view of this Council decided to disband the group. Special thanks were given to all Working Group members, and especially J Rainaut (France) for chairing the group and the tremendous amount of work he had completed on behalf of WHFF members.

### President Joins Dairy Australia

WHFF President, Matthew Shaffer, will be leaving his post as Chief Executive of Holstein Australia and joining Dairy Australia. However, Matthew has been appointed as a non-executive director of Holstein Australia and will also retain his position as WHFF President.

### Holstein Champion: USA World Dairy Expo and Toronto Winter Fair



RF Goldwyn Hayley

### PROPOSED INTERBULL SNP DATABASE

The proposed Interbull SNP parentage database was fully discussed and the challenge this posed to all Herdbooks, irrespective of the state of Herdbook and industry integration.

The situation would create an opportunity for other industry organisations to become involved in parentage recording and potentially bypass the need for authenticated registered Herdbooks.

Council accepted and acknowledged the efficiencies that may be gained; however this could result in the creation of an 'Interbull super database' of top genetic male and female animals. Although initially this is for parentage verification, this could in time be developed into production SNP's, which could have significant commercial implications.

Council were informed that Interbull had notified Holstein USA that the type evaluation contract would finish December 2013. Interbull would complete the type evaluation from January 2014.

A formal letter to be sent by the President to Interbull outlining the WHFF position explaining that WHFF requests direct access to the working group. This is supported by the fact that an estimated 90% of animals referred to are Holsteins.

Council proposed that it was essential for 2 Council members to be on the proposed Interbull Task Force, one from a fully integrated Herdbook and one from a traditional Herdbook.

Council recommended that the President, M Shaffer, representing traditional Herdbook structures and past President, E Feddersen representing integrated Herdbook structures should represent WHFF on the Interbull Task Force.

#### Holstein Champion: IDW Australia



**Elm Banks Polly Wolly**

#### ICAR

Council were supportive of improving efficiencies within the international industry. WHFF would welcome a more integrated approach with ICAR, to enable WHFF to represent its membership in the initial discussion. The proposed World Breed Federation task force was welcome as this would involve all Federations in the decision making process. WHFF had recommended to ICAR that the first meeting should take place in May at the ICAR meeting in Denmark.

WHFF ICAR Representatives: -  
President, M Shaffer.  
Secretary General, D Hewitt.

#### 2013 Holstein Champion: Europe



**Decrausaz Iron O'KALIBRA.**

WHFF representatives have met with the chairmen of ICAR and Interbull at the ICAR General Assembly and Working Group meetings in Aarhus Denmark. The discussion centred on the formation of a World Breed Federation Task Force and the proposal for the Interbull SNP database. The aim of the meeting was to engender closer working relationships within the ICAR community thereby reducing duplication and costs through closer cooperation.

#### FERTILITY

The literature review has been edited by Dr Jenny Price and Dr Matthew Shaffer and prepared for submission to the Journal of Dairy Science. The original version presented in Toronto will be available in the member's section of the WHFF web site.

The Fertility Survey Summary will also be available in the member's section, which has recommendations that may be implemented by Herdbook Associations. This should be interpreted as a service to members from WHFF.

#### SHOWING RULES

Council are strongly in favour of developing Showing Rules to address issues relating to consumer confidence and animal welfare. The principle of establishing a broad based format for Showing Rules shall be developed by WHFF over the next 12 months and be presented at the May 2014 Council meeting. It was acknowledged that total harmonisation was not possible due to the differing legislation within each country.

The Showing Rules of individual countries may be made available exclusively within the member's section of the WHFF web site.

It was reiterated that WHFF was not attempting to establish a world standard, but set the principle of acceptable showing practices, which included health and welfare issues.

#### **Holstein Champion: Korea**



#### **TRANSGENIC ANIMALS**

A fast developing technology which WHFF must consider on behalf of our members. To be fully researched and discussed as an agenda item at the next Council meeting.

#### **Date and Venue of 2014 Council Meeting**

To improve the financial effectiveness of WHFF council meetings, it was proposed that future WHFF council meetings should harmonise with ICAR/Interbull meetings. The arrangements would be made on an individual basis depending on the requirements of the WHFF council. The first programme will be associated with the 2014 ICAR meeting in Berlin.

#### **MEMBERS SECTION WHFF WEB SITE**

Remember that the linear training program 'Virtual Cow' is available in the member's section of the web site. There are also specific articles for all Herdbook organisations together with information on the Holstein breed.

#### **WHFF Future Events**

##### **2014 Classifier Workshop**

World Classifier Linear and Type Harmonisation Workshop will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Denmark: Full details and booking arrangements will be available at a later date.

##### **2016 World Conference**

The World Conference and WHFF General Assembly will be held in Argentina. WHFF is launching a Facebook page dedicated to the Conference and visitors programme. Full details will be available on the WHFF web homepage.

#### **Champion Holstein: Argentina**



**2011 Argentina National Champion LA LILIA RP 3041.**

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



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