

As we move steadily towards Christmas and New Year, it's time to reflect back to the achievements of 2016 as well as the prospect of 2017. Two main International events occurred this year – the 14<sup>th</sup> World Holstein Friesian Federation Conference in Argentina and the ICAR Conference in Chile. Both Conferences emphasised the importance of collecting robust data and using it effectively to manage Holsteins; raising productivity and improving health and welfare. The Council would like once again to thank Liliana Chazo and ACHA for all their hard work and enthusiasm, culminating in an unforgettable WHFF conference in Buenos Aires. The WHFF Council hope you all have a Restful and Happy Christmas and a Successful and Prosperous 2017.

## 40<sup>th</sup> ICAR Conference in Puerto Varas, Chile 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016

The Conference title was 'Performance Recording as a Tool for Developing Countries'. There were many participants from South America, and it was very interesting to compare the way Animal Recording is organised in different countries. There was a lot of emphasis on new data that can be obtained from a milk sample - analysis of differential Cell Counts, bHb, using biomarkers for to assess animal fertility and welfare, fatty acid profiling and the further use of MRI spectra.

Notable amongst the presentations were

- 'Managing the Challenge of low milk price' - an issue very relevant for many countries.
- 'New Structures for Cattle Breeding – Australian Experience'
- New Milk Recording Guidelines
- Guidelines for Claw Health Data

Through the Secretary General, WHFF has representation on the new ICAR DNA Working Group. This Working Group has been set up to replace the Parentage Recording Working Group and the Genetic Analysis Working Group. It will manage the requirements for DNA related guidelines and information exchange relating to SNPs. Another new Working Group is the Sensor Working Group. The group will produce guidelines on all devices obtaining data from animals.

Presentations can be found on [www.icar.org](http://www.icar.org) check!! If you are interested in receiving a full set of notes, or have any questions about the ICAR meeting, please email [worldholstein@gmail.com](mailto:worldholstein@gmail.com).

Included in the programme was a technical tour. I visited Fundacion Tronador – a non-profit organisation created in 2015 with the aim of promoting education about the rural world.

Fundacion Tronador includes a Holstein Dairy farm and a Lipizzaner horses stud farm. The Dairy farm has three milking parlours, an 80 point rotary parlour, a 20 and 16 point traditional parlours.



The farm raises 1800 calves a year, have 2200 milking cows and with heifers have 4700 cows in total. Cows graze outside and receive concentrate providing a balanced diet. To date the Dairy farm has produced 20,000,000 litres of milk from 2400 cows.



## Joint Initiative to facilitate the Exchange of Bull Genetic Trait Data

An initiative suggested by the WHFF President Jos Buiting, and sent to ICAR CEO Martin Burke was discussed at the Interbull Business Meeting. This proposal was to exchange Bull Genetic Trait data through the Interbull Centre Evaluation runs. This initiative was well received by both INTERBULL and ICAR. The possibility for Interbull Service Users to

upload information on genetic traits for Holstein bulls will be trialed in the January 2017 test run. Once the process is approved, this information will be distributed three times per year to Interbull Service Users – as part of the routine runs. More details will follow when available.

#### **INTERBULL précis of work**

Egbert Feddersen represented WHFF at the October 2016 INTERBULL Meeting. Main points of interest:

- **Parentage SNP Exchange (“GenoEx-PSE”)** – a new service for exchanging standardized sets of SNP from genotyped animals to facilitate parentage analysis activities, carried out by authorized service users of the GenoEx-PSE service. GenoEx-PSE Service Users will be required to achieve Parentage Analysis accreditation from Service-ICAR
- **Accreditation of DNA Data Interpretation Centres.** This accreditation will allow data centers to use available SNP-data for official parentage analysis and confirmation
- Some smaller Holstein populations have asked for a genomic data exchange mechanism.

More information can be found at

[http://www.interbull.org/ib/bm\\_chile\\_2016](http://www.interbull.org/ib/bm_chile_2016)

#### **Registration Working Group**

The main thrust of activity for the working group in 2016 has been the Standardized Labelling of Genetic Trait Coding document. In today’s evolving world, the pace and productivity of animal sciences and discoveries of new genetic traits and conditions continues at a rapid speed. Advances in genomic understanding and laboratory testing methods are leading to frequent discoveries. The importance of these discoveries can vary from a trait related to individual preference (an animal’s coat colour) to those with a significant impact on the health and welfare of our dairy population (cholesterol deficiency being the latest). The goal of the Working Group, through this document, is to provide a commonly accepted ‘process pathway’ among the worldwide Holstein leaders and industry partners for the labelling of new genetic traits.

Genetic trait information was updated on the WHFF website, article published in Holstein International and a press release issued.

In the fall a presentation was given at ICAR meeting in Chile on standardized labelling, coding and guidelines for reporting procedure as the objectives of the working group.

#### **Type Harmonisation WG précis of work in 2016**

In total 43 participants from 26 countries attended the 12<sup>th</sup> WHFF World Classifiers Workshop in Buenos Aires. New and important steps were done towards

world type harmonization: Recommendations were given in order to keep improving data and correlations among countries. Recommendations include:

- Faster implementation of new traits
- Making Angularity a separate trait from Body Condition Score
- Share phenotypic correlation each year
- Score body Depth independently from Stature
- Front Teat Length and Rear Teat Length are highly correlated. Front Teat Length easier to score; it shows more spread
- Continue the program of Head Classifier Workshops

More information on the website under Documents tab - Type Classification



Type Classification WG

#### **Next World Conference**

The 15<sup>th</sup> WHFF Conference and General Assembly will be held in Montreux, Switzerland in March 2020. Please put the date in your diary; there will be more information as the Conference date draws nearer.

#### **WHFF Council**

The WHFF Council will be meeting in May so if you have any issues you wish to be raised, please email. A list of the Council and their contact details can be found on the WHFF web site.

#### **Members Section of the WHFF web site**

Please take a moment to check that we have your current Holstein Champion on the website – if not please email a picture and details to the Secretary General.



Contact Details

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