

The working relationship between WHFF and the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) is currently very strong. Both organisations benefit from the other, each bringing knowledge and strengths to the table. In this age of reducing human and financial resources we must be sure that we avoid duplication of effort; communication between all organisations and working groups is essential. Several important issues are currently exercising the thoughts of Herd Books; new EU regulations, genomics, on farm data ownership, Big Data, etc. These topics have been discussed at the ICAR meeting this year and are being discussed at the WHFF Council Meetings – your ideas and thoughts are most welcome.

The WHFF Council met in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in May 2017 for the 34th WHFF Council meeting. The Council decided that a budget would be available for countries hosting the World Type Classification Workshops. The next workshop will be in the UK in September 2018. Members from the Registration WG joined the Council Meeting by Skype to debate 'What is a Genetic Trait'. The WG will discuss over the next year and will produce a comprehensive document for publication for the web site.



A series of talks were held for two days and during the Association's meeting, the need to maintain close ties with the WHFF was agreed upon. The Associations also recognized the need to work on their youth programs and to implement new information technologies and to take full advantage of genomics to promote and renovate their organizations.

A classification workshop was organized by Héctor de la Lanza (Holstein de México's Head classifier) and lead by Gabriel Blanco (Spain), the WHFF Type Classification Workgroup Chairman, who was assisted by Bruno Jubinville (CAN) as one of the instructors.



The Council also discussed the important challenges for the Holstein breed – animal welfare, AMR (Antimicrobial resistance - where microbes have become resistant to antibiotics), feed efficiency, gas emissions, etc. The next meeting of the Council will be in conjunction with the ICAR Conference in Auckland, New Zealand February 2018.

Representatives of fourteen Holstein Associations from the American Continent met in Mexico in July to celebrate the 14th Congreso Holstein de las Américas. Ann Louise Carson, CEO Holstein Canada and Vice President of WHFF, represented the WHFF Council and made a presentation about WHFF.





A Judges Conference was also held. Esteban Posada, Judges Coordinator from the Mexican Holstein Association was in charge and Pat Conroy (USA) and Callum McKinven (CAN) were the official judges for the event.



The program finished with a Holstein show Judged by Gabriel Blanco.



A note for your diary - The 15th Congreso de las Americas is scheduled for 2019 in Brazil.

Farm technology regarding data ownership

The WHFF Council state that WHFF considers that cow data collected on farm to belong to the farmer. Different countries will have different definitions. In Germany people have data property rights so they can give away their data, and user rights where organisations can work with the farmers' data. So for example the farmer gives data to the robot company who can use the data. The robot company cannot give the data to anyone. Businesses are changing and more data is being registered on farm, so Herd Books will need to establish data ownership and data exchange Guidelines. Ultimately the data the farmer gives to the herd books and other organisations must be used to benefit the farmer. How do you handle data ownership in your organisation? The Council would be interested in your views – email worldholstein@gmail.com

ICAR DNA WG

The ICAR DNA Working Group meets several times a year over the Internet and once face-to-face at the annual ICAR Conference. The working group members are taken from both operational and scientific fields to ensure a good mix in discussions. Recently the WG has been discussing Based Genotyping and Gene Editing. It is important that the WHFF Registration WG is complimentary to the ICAR DNA WG and that work is not duplicated.

Intergenomics Holstein (IgHol)

A letter was sent from WHFF to ICAR supporting the request for an International bull evaluation service for Countries not participating in EuroGenomics or the North Atlantic Alliance. We will keep you informed of progress regarding this important initiative as it moves forward.

GENOEX update

Two ICAR new services – Parentage exchange service for SNPs and Accreditation for DNA Interpretation centres were announced last year. Due to technical problems, launch of these services have been delayed until later in the year.

41st ICAR Conference in Edinburgh, UK 12th - 16th June 2017

The Conference title was 'Big Ideas for Big Data'. Sessions were held on topics ranging from the 'legal implications of data provision' to 'Alternative Phenotyping Strategies' to 'Integrating data from other data sources'. Herd Books need to consider the effect of these issues upon their businesses.

42nd ICAR Conference in Auckland, New Zealand, February 2018.

There will be a session / workshop on Sunday 11th February at the ICAR 2018 Conference covering many aspects interesting to WHFF member organisations. Please attend if you can. For more details, please email worldholstein@gmail.com.

Joint Initiative to facilitate the Exchange of Bull Genetic Trait Data - Update

As already reported, an initiative suggested by the WHFF President Jos Buiting, and sent to ICAR CEO Martin Burke was discussed at the Interbull Business Meeting in Chile 2016. This proposal was to exchange Holstein Bull Genetic Trait data through the Interbull Centre Evaluation runs. A trial by the Netherlands, Germany and the UK has been completed, with all three countries increasing the numbers of genetic traits in their databases. Each Herd book will be responsible for updating their

databases with any new data. We will let you know when the service is available to all countries.

The Interbull Centre has been designated as European Union Reference Centre for *“scientific and technical contribution to the harmonisation and improvement of the methods of performance testing and genetic evaluation of purebred breeding animals of the bovine species”* from 1 November 2018.

For more information see

<http://www.interbull.org/ib/eurc>

WHFF Web Site

Please remember to send in news stories, show details, pictures of your Holstein Champions for the web site. Website: www.whff.info

