

World Holstein Friesian Federation

Newsletter No 21



The WHFF Council met in Italy on 22nd October 2022, their first face to face meeting since March 2019.

The WHFF Council would like to wish you, your families, and your teams a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

The WHFF Council has also met twice virtually during 2022. The topics discussed by Council during this time have been diverse and included data from sensors, a proposed project on Biodiversity, new trait BLIRD, updating the Terms of Reference of the Working Groups and discussing the survey information from the WHFF members. The results of the survey will be sent out after Christmas.



The Council are pictured above, left to right Vice President László Bognar (Hungary), Martino Cassandro (Italy), Suzanne Harding (SG), President Cheryl Watson (New Zealand), Brad Eggink (Canada), Jos Buiting (Netherlands), Thierry Menard (France) and Luis Gonzalez (Colombia). They were joined virtually by Jens Baltissen (Germany) and Lindsey Worden (USA), with apologies from Jun Kurita (Japan).

If you have any concerns you wish the Council to discuss, please either get in touch with your regional representative or email worldholstein@gmail.com

2023 WHFF World Conference

I am very pleased to confirm that the next WHFF World Conference and General Assembly, will be held in Le Puy du Fou, France on the 21st to 22nd November 2023. More details will follow.

2022 WHFF World Classification Workshop

The 15th WHFF Type Harmonisation Workshop was held in Morges, Switzerland from 20th to 22nd

September 2022. Fifty one participants from 27 countries attended.

The WHFF Type Harmonisation Working Group met at the Workshop and made 9 recommendations to the Council. All recommendations were approved by the Council at the October meeting.

1. Faster implementation of new traits
2. The trait Angularity has been changed to 'Rib Structure'.
3. All reference to cms were removed from Stature definition.
4. The Working Group will review the pictures and descriptions on the trait list to see if they can be made clearer.
5. The phenotypic correlation of body traits, feet and legs traits and udder traits, based on the last 12 months of data, will be shared.
6. Focus traits: Chest Width, Rib Structure (previously Angularity), Rear Legs Rear View, Foot Angle, Locomotion, Fore Udder and Udder Support.
7. Body Depth should be scored independently from Stature. Countries should be made aware that they should score linear traits as a one-dimensional trait.
8. For next workshop the Working Group will produce a list of conformation defects based on how commonly they are scored and the incidence in population.
9. Continue the program of Head Classifiers Workshop.

A fuller report is being written and will be sent to you in due course.

2022 ICAR Conference

The ICAR Conference was held in Montreal, Canada June 2022. It was held as a joint face to face and virtual Conference. As a virtual participant I could only view one session stream. The topics I viewed were around body condition score, data selection tools and sustainability. All presentations are available to download on www.icar.org

Monogenetic Traits and Registration

The WHFF Monogenetic Traits and Registration Working Group have discussed the coding of haplotypes with an expert industry group and will be creating a document for distribution to the membership. The new trait BLIRD will also be discussed and reported back to the membership.

WHFF Web Site

Currently the WHFF Website cannot be updated. A new website is being developed and will be published in early 2023. Please remember to send in your news stories, show details, and pictures of your Holstein Champions for the website: www.whff.info

Dates for your Diary:

The following dates are planned for 2023:

26 - 29 April 2023	EHRC – Conference and General Assembly, Ireland
22 - 26 May 2023	44th ICAR Session, Toledo, Spain
2023 - August	European Judging school, Latvia
21 – 22 November 2023	WHFF Conference and General Assembly, France