



WHFF 348 Report of the ICAR / WHFF Genetic Trait Data Exchange Project By Suzanne Harding

Background

The president Jos Buiting initiated the ICAR / WHFF Genetic Trait Data Exchange project in 28th September 2016 by sending a letter to Martin Burke the CEO of ICAR.

The objective of the project was to ensure that an international automated standard data exchange procedure was available. WHFF considers that Interbull is the best vehicle for this data dissemination. ^[1]

Discussions were held between Suzanne Harding (WHFF Secretary General) and Toine Roozen (Director Interbull Centre) at the 2016 ICAR meeting in Chile.

It was agreed that a trial would commence in 2017 involving three countries Genetic Trait data – Germany, Netherlands and the UK.

Process for data exchange

The data is sent to Interbull from the evaluation centre with the permission of the National Herd Book Organisations.

At the end of the evaluation run, Interbull will make the Genetic Trait data available to evaluation centres from their AnimInfo web site. It was originally discussed that a file could be sent back to the Evaluation Centres but it was decided that it would initially work better if the data was pulled from Interbull by the Evaluation Centres.

The data would then be made available to the National Herd Book Organisations who will need to write processes to read it into their systems.

The Evaluation Centres involved were asked to sign a letter of understanding with Interbull, allowing for exchange of the Genetic Trait data.

There will currently not be a fee for this service, however Service ICAR may decide to charge at a later date.

The WHFF Registration WG were kept informed of the progress of the project.

If the projects conclusion were good, then it would be opened up to all Dairy National Herd Book Organisations. The WHFF nomenclature coding standards would be recommended if participating Breed Associations do not have any current standards.

Who will be responsible for any data errors or inconsistencies?



Interbull will not record the owner of the bulls however they will record the organisation that uploads the data.

If there are any errors (discrepancies and/or duplications) they can be therefore be sourced back to the originators, and the originators can then sort out these errors.

Which codes are uploaded?

The genetic traits to be exchanged were to be the official direct tested traits as appear on the WHFF web site.

Holstein UK / AHDB

Marco Winters – “upload appears to have gone ok. Dealing with traits for which both a haplotype and gene test exist appeared most challenging.”

CRV

Gerben de Jong – “We have uploaded a file with the genetic trait info. We will check if we can download the information.”

VIT

VIT also uploaded Genetic traits, but have not responded with comments.

Interbull / ICAR

Reinhart Reents – “I have cc Toine to this mail since he is the one who best knows the status.

As far as I am aware at least two of the (3?) data centers have sent in data to Interbull (one is vit).

We have made a plan for the next steps at our last Interbull steering committee meeting and Toine can share that with you.”

I am waiting to hear from Toine.

Conclusions

The upload of genetic Trait data appears to have proceeded successfully with few issues.