



WORLD HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN FEDERATION

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Event: 54th WHFF Council Meeting
Venue: Zoom
Time and Date: 13th March 2024 20.00 CET (Paris time)

Minutes.

Present:

Cherilyn Watson (President)	New Zealand
László Bognár (Vice President)	Hungary
Carlos Herrera	Colombia
Thierry Menard	France
Stephan Schneider	Germany
Martino Cassandro	Italy
Jos Buiting	Netherlands
Suzanne Harding	(Secretary General)

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

- Cherilyn as President welcomed the Council to the meeting. She welcomed Carlos to the Council and asked the Council to introduce themselves.
- Apologies had been received from Sartaj Sarkaria, Lindsey Worden and Jun Kurita.

2. Approval of the Agenda.

- The agenda was approved, moved by László, and seconded by Thierry.

3. Previous minutes of the 52nd Council meeting (*WHFF 5403 52nd Meeting minutes 2023 v2*)

- The 52nd Meeting minutes were approved, moved by László, and seconded by Jos.

4. Previous actions of the 52nd Council meeting (*WHFF 5404 52nd Council Meeting Actions v1*)

- There was one action outstanding for the Monogenetic and Registration Working Group to decide whether the Guidelines for Clones needs updating. This will be addressed in item7.b
- With this the actions were agreed.
- By mistake, the actions had not been sent out.

Action: Suzanne to send out the 52nd actions to the Council.

5. Previous minutes of the 53rd Council meeting (*WHFF 5405 53rd Meeting minutes 2023 v2*)

- The 53rd Meeting minutes were approved, moved by Jos, and seconded by Stephan.

6. Previous actions of the 53rd Council meeting (*WHFF 5406 53rd Council Meeting Actions v1*)

- The actions were agreed to be complete.

7. WHFF Working Groups Reports

- WHFF Type Harmonisation WG report
Thierry presented Gerbens' report to the Council.

At the last meeting the Working Group were organising the 2024 workshop. Thierry explained the agenda. The following will be worked on - conformation defects, harmonisation of six new traits, virtual cow, correlations between countries, phenotypic correlation among traits, update for countries.

The new traits being considered are rear udder width, bone quality, udder balance, loin strength, udder texture, front feet orientation. To enter the trait into the official list the trait:

1. Must be a clear linear trait, with a clear definition.
2. There mustn't be any genetic correlation over 0.85 with an official linear trait.
3. It must have at least 10% heritability
4. It may have added value for a functional trait.
5. Either at least 50% of WHFF members should be scoring the trait or countries should score a defect similar to the trait. Countries should be planning to introduce a breeding value.

The Working Group propose to add udder balance and front feet orientation as they fulfil these criteria.

- Carlos asked what the difference is between a defect and a linear trait.
- Thierry replied that a defect is binary – it's there or not. Linear traits show a progressive change in the trait.
- Carlos asked why the US have a different scale for classification.
- Thierry didn't know why. WHFF use a 9-point scale, the US uses 50.
- László agreed that a defect is binary; traits should be backed up by genetics and so have a normal population with a bell curve.
- László commented on the Virtual cow, stating that it is great for demonstration, but it needs to have the traits as they are defined by WHFF.
- Carlos said that Colombia has some computer people who may be able to help.
- Stephan welcomed Carlos' offer to find an IT person who might be able to create a WHFF version of the virtual cow.
- It was also supported by Jos, he continued that we need to ask Holstein UK why they won't give it to us, otherwise can they sell it to us?

Action: Suzanne to find out if it is copyrighted.

Action: Suzanne to speak to Holstein UK.

- László said that it needs to be accurate programming to make the cow look correct. He mentioned that there was a CD given out in Canada.
- Carlos said that he has the CD - he will speak to his computer person.

Action: Suzanne to put on the next agenda.

b. WHFF Monogenetic Traits and Registration WG

At the 52nd Council meeting, the Monogenetic Traits and Registration Working Group were asked to consider whether the Clone Guidelines need to be updated.

László presented Lindsey's report. There are three main areas.

1. New documents and updated genetic traits and codes.
 2. Survey to membership for comments - putting on the list and removing from the list.
 3. Working with ICAR to harmonise the laboratory genetic testing, define the lines between WHFF and ICAR group, technical view of the documents and discuss the ICBF/ICAR booklet and how it can be kept up to date.
- Jos asked if anyone could be against having BLIRD and early onset muscle weakness on the list.

- László said that these new traits are unusual as they were reported by a lab and the expression/genetic condition is not following the usual pattern. There is a lot of scientific discussion that needs to be considered. Many people are using them as a marketing tool.
- Stephan asked which countries are asking for the codes?
- László replied North America and Europe. In Eastern Europe they will ask once they have carriers in their populations.

8. WHFF Inclusivity of more Production Data Task force presented by Sartaj Sarkaria
Sartaj had sent through a report which had been shared with the Council.

- Cherilyn stated that it appears that nothing has happened in this Task Force for a year.
- Jos was concerned that Sartaj does not mention ICAR in her report. He continued that she is asking for ideas from the Council. We could do a survey to find best practices and find out what our farmers want. It depends on the countries structure as to what is the problem – we need to understand the best practices from each country.
- Cherilyn is concerned that nothing is happening in this group. Rohan is part of the Task Force but hasn't heard anything at all. Cherilyn is happy for the Task Force to continue, but asked if we speak to ICAR?
- Stephan said that he will ask Sartaj to call a meeting. He will invest more time.

Action: Stephan to contact Sartaj.

Post meeting note: an AMS and sensor survey was conducted in 2022 amongst WHFF members. This was presented at the 48th Council meeting by Vincent Landry of Holstein Canada.

Action: Suzanne to re-send the survey presentation to the Council and to Rohan.

9. TOR Protocols amended to include members joining and leaving WHFF. (WHFF 5409 TOR WHFF Protocols)

- a. This was requested at the 52nd Council meeting – action 13.d

The Council were happy with the wording but considered that it should be in its own document so that it can be sent out to new members.

Action: Suzanne to put into a new document.

Action: Suzanne to place on the web site and send out to new members.

10.Data Ownership (WHFF 5410 Data Ownership and Use Survey)

- a. Survey results.

- Cherilyn stated that from the survey the membership would like a Task Force, but what will it achieve?
- Martino said that it was interesting that more than 50% of WHFF members support this Task Force.
- Cherilyn asked what would be the Task Force's purpose?
- Martino said it would clarify the difference between ordinary law and private information. It could also explain the use of data in the steps of each process.
- Thierry agreed with Martino. He continued that the problem is that there are many regulations in the world. In the EU we have uniform regulations. What would be the goal of the Task Force? We cannot have an impact on individual Countries regulations. It could be interesting, but will it help at all.
- Jos said that he also struggled with what can be achieved. In the EU we have GDPR, which is principle based, not rule based. You can collect data only if you need it. You cannot sell data to third parties, etc. It is the responsibility of each person to know the law and to adhere to it. He stated that META was given a penalty of 1.2 billion

euro for not working according to the privacy act. He said that Canada is planning to have a similar GDPR. We can send out the presentation but must be careful it is totally correct.

- Stephan also would appreciate a Task Force but didn't think it would reach any conclusions. It could just look at the individual Countries laws.
- Cherilyn asked if we could have a document stating the different laws in each country? She said she felt the Council were struggling to find a purpose and goal for the Task Force.
- Martino said that GDPR is an important law in the EU but the ownership of data is not regulated in countries. The goal is to provide a summary for members, then perhaps continue? He can send more ideas to discuss at the next meeting.
- Thierry said that France interprets the regulation such that it may be that once cows reach a certain age the Herd Book must anonymise the cow data – this makes it difficult for evaluations!
- Jos explained that GDPR is a regulation in EU and must be implemented the same way in each country. However, each country's interpretation is different. For the EU members it is similar for everyone. Other countries must manage it themselves.
- Carlos suggested that perhaps the task force can give a guideline on how this effects the breed. Where data is important for the breed.
- Cherilyn asked how would WHFF maintain changes to regulations?
- Stephan thought that by introducing a guideline we could have an overview for WHFF members. We use so many types of data with many ownerships. Farmer/MRO/herd books/parlours/etc.
- Cherilyn said that the survey suggests that members want it, and asked if Martino could come back with a paper showing what a task force can achieve. He can bring ideas to the next meeting.
- Martino agreed.
- Stephan will support from Germany.

Action: Suzanne to send the raw data to Martino

Action: Suzanne to put on next agenda.

11. Exchange of WHFF genetic traits at INTERBULL (*WHFF 5411 Exchange of Genetic Traits at INTERBULL; WHFF 5411 GDPR by WHFF, WHFF 5411 Report of the ICAR WHFF Genetic Trait Data Exchange (34th Council meeting)*)

a. This was requested at the 52nd Council meeting – action 12.b

- Cherilyn asked Jos to explain the history of the item.
- Jos said that still only three countries have participated in this data exchange. He suggested that once Toine Roosen, Director of INTERBULL, is fully back to work it would be good to have a workshop. Jos thought that if we add BLIRD and early onset muscle weakness to the list of exchangeable traits, we will get more interest from members. These new traits can be sent to INTERBULL and then automatically be exchanged. Data exchange is useful for the sire mating programs and for the farmers.
- Before Toine was sick he had spoken to Suzanne about a workshop. This didn't happen.
- Suzanne suggested that she speak to Toine in Bled at the ICAR meeting. Jos said he would be in Bled and could attend a meeting as well.
- **Action: Suzanne to email Toine and arrange a meeting.**
- Thierry said his team are working on the IT to make this data exchange possible. The property of the data is also a problem as the AI companies are not happy to share the data nationally or internationally.
- Jos said that under EU law it states that it is the herd books responsibility to register the data and exchange with other herd books.
- Jos said that the Council member countries should be participating - especially Canada, US, and Italy.

12. Methane Emissions presented by Martino Cassandro (*WHFF 5412 Global Methane Hub / Bezos Earth Fund*)

Action: Suzanne to ask for Martinos' presentation and then send around the Council.

- Martino said that he will be available to join the dairy phenotyping program. He will represent WHFF at the meeting in Bled.
- Jos said that CRV are involved and said that he and Gerben can support Martino as CRV collect data on emissions.

Action: Martino will report back to the Council

13. Finance presented by Suzanne Harding

- a. 2024 Accounts to date (*WHFF 5413a 2024 Accounts to date*)
- b. 2023 Final accounts for approval (*WHFF 5413b 2020 - 2024 Accounts and Budgets EOY 2023 v2; WHFF 5413b 2023 WHFF Accounts v2*)

The Council approved the 2023 accounts. Approval was moved by László and seconded by Carlos. Once the EHRC 2023 accounts are approved, the accounts will be sent to the External auditors.

Action: Suzanne to send to the external auditors in due course.

Carlos said that he could speak to Chile about their membership debt.

Action – Suzanne to email Carlos details of Chiles debt.

Action: Carlos to speak to Chile about their membership debt.

László – said that he will speak to Romania. The CEO of Holstein Romania has changed.

Action: László to speak to Romania about their membership debt.

Post meeting note – the South American debt is with Argentina and Ecuador NOT Chile.

- c. Cherilyn reported on the increase in Secretary General fees to Management salary to £23,500.00 and the secretarial Fee to €230.00 from 1st March 2024. The Council approved this increase.

14. Any other Business

- a. Website latest statistics (*WHFF 5414a Monthly Website Report - February 2024*)
- b. WHFF 2028 Conference in Australia
HA Member Announcement - <https://www.holstein.com.au/latest/latest-news-holstein/whff-conference-heading-to-melbourne-in-2028>
Promotional page for internationals - <https://www.holstein.com.au/whff2028>
The program will need to be approved by the WHFF Council.

- Cherilyn thought that it is too early to put on web site.
- Jos suggested we put the link on the web site as a draft program for 2028.
- This was agreed by the Council.

Action: Suzanne to place on the website as a draft program.

- c. Carlos has had an enquiry from Ecuador about how to register animals by genomic test. Jos thought that maybe ICAR can help.

Action – Suzanne to send Carlos the contact for ICAR. (Cesare / Rene)

15. Next Meeting in Colombia

Carlos spoke to the program that had been sent around to the Council. The 2024 Colombian National show will be in Medellín.
Cherilyn thanked everyone for agreeing to have the council meeting after the show.

The Council all approved the agenda.

Action: Suzanne to liaise with Carlos about the meeting. (Hotels, etc)

The meeting was closed at 22.20 CET.