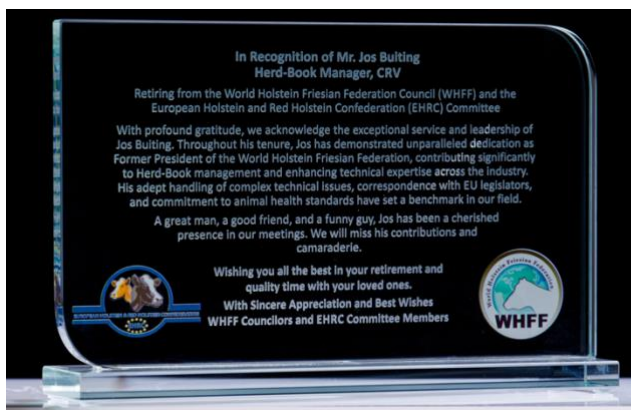


## The WHFF Council last met face to face on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Rio Negro, Colombia.

The 55<sup>th</sup> meeting was the last meeting for Jos Buiting (Netherlands). Jos has been a Councillor for 17 years, and WHFF President for 6 years from 2016 to 2021.



Below Cherilyn Watson (President of WHFF) presents Jos with a plaque from WHFF and EHRC.



Matters discussed at the Council meeting included Data Ownership, the Biodiversity Project, Methane Emissions, the Virtual Cow and Beef on Dairy. These topics are carried forward to the next Council meeting. If you have any opinion or questions about these topics, please email [worldholstein@gmail.com](mailto:worldholstein@gmail.com).

The Type Harmonisation Working Group had a workshop earlier this year in Cremona, Italy. Gerben de Jong, Chair of the Working Group, reported that

they proposed two new traits for scoring - udder balance and front feet orientation. They also proposed four non-official WHFF traits consisting of rear udder width, bone quality, loin strength and udder structure, and reviewed the list of genetic defects. All these proposals were ratified by the Council at the September 2024 meeting. The Working Group discussed the Virtual Cow, which needs to be updated to incorporate these changes. The Council asked that Members complete a survey about the usage of the Virtual Cow to enable the Council to understand the needs of the membership.

Lindsey Worden, Chair of the Monogenetic Traits and Registration Working Group reported that, with the Councils' approval, the Genetic Traits documents will be expanded to four sections.

- Master List of Genetic and Carrier Codes
- Genetic Conditions under Investigation
- Suggested Genetic Conditions Under Investigation
- Archived Genetic Conditions

A comprehensive list is available on the WHFF website.

These changes were all approved at the Council meeting. The Council discussed at length where BLIRD should be categorised. The Working Group do not consider that they have enough scientific information to place BLIRD on the master list. Details of BLIRD are yet to be published in a scientific paper, and there isn't a common test.

The WHFF membership are asked to submit all scientific information relating to BLIRD to [worldholstein@gmail.com](mailto:worldholstein@gmail.com) to give the Working Group the information they need to make an informed decision in future.



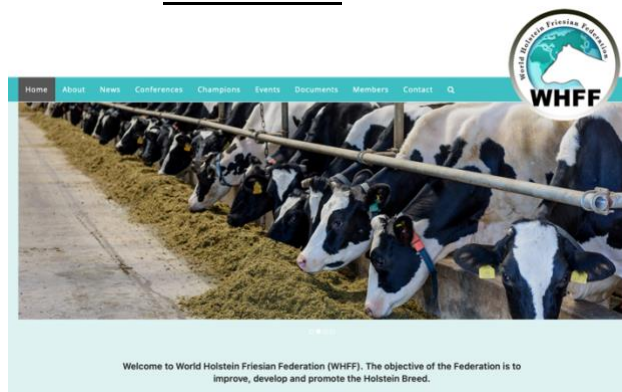
**WHFF Inclusivity of More Performance Data Task Force** chaired by Martino Cassandro are due to meet this year to define a new roadmap for the Task Force with a goal, timeline and actions.

The WHFF Council have a zoom meeting in Spring 2025, so please let me know if you have any topics you would like discussed. [worldholstein@gmail.com](mailto:worldholstein@gmail.com)

Your Council are from left to right, Jos Buiting (Netherlands), Thierry Menard (France), Stephan Schneider (Germany), László Bognár (Hungary), Cherilyn Watson (New Zealand), Suzanne Harding (Secretary General), Carlos Herrera (Colombia), Lindsey Worden (USA) by zoom. Photograph by Martino Cassandro (Italy). Apologies were received from Jun Kurita (Japan) and Sartaj Sarkaria (Canada).



Please remember to send in your news stories, show details, and pictures of your Holstein Champions for the website: [www.whff.info](http://www.whff.info)



**Dates for your Diary:**

The following dates are planned:

2026	Type Harmonisation Workshop, Italy.
2028	WHFF Conference and General Assembly, Australia

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