

## PREFACE

Along with the increasing international trade in frozen semen and embryos, the need for a standardized documentation of current methods for genetic evaluation of dairy cattle, applied in various countries, has grown markedly. INTERBULL has undertaken the task of developing a procedure to collect, standardize and publish important information on the methods applied in dairy bull evaluation in as many countries or organizations as have shown interest in this subject. Initially, emphasis has been placed on production traits. 25 countries representing all continents have participated in this first phase of the project.

The documentation contains detailed information on which traits are included, how they are evaluated and expressed, and the definition of the genetic base with which comparisons are made. All information refers to the situation in 1985.

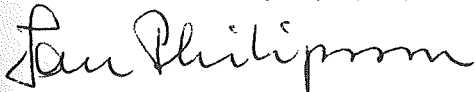
Furthermore, information is given on the number of bulls tested by breed each year, and the average results of each year-group. It has been our intention to cover the periods during and after those included in the large-scale experiments conducted by FAO in Poland and Bulgaria. Thus, it should be possible to follow the more recent trends in the bull populations of various countries. This is especially the case when BLUP or MCC procedures are applied. However, it has not been possible to get complete information from all countries.

When available references are given to the literature, including further details. The postal address is also given for the organization responsible for the genetic evaluations in each country.

The purpose of publishing the information in this bulletin is that it should be used in the international bull catalogues, by AI studs or breeders, and for educational purposes, wherever international information on sire evaluation procedures or breeding programs is needed. In the future we hope to publish up-dated information at regular intervals, i.e. every second or third year, to keep up with changes in methods being applied.

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On behalf of the INTERBULL Committee



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Coordinator

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