

PREFACE

Increased international trade in frozen semen and embryos has widely broadened the boundaries of dairy cattle breeding programs. Since practically all countries differ in their ways of evaluating bulls, or expressing the proofs, there is a great need to standardize information on sire proofs used by different countries such that sufficient information is available to correctly interpret the proofs across countries.

INTERBULL, as a joint committee of the International Dairy Federation (IDF), the European Association of Animal Production (EAAP) and the International Committee for Recording the Productivity of Milk Animals (ICRPMA), 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 the project. Initially, emphasis has been placed on production traits. A first edition, describing the sire evaluation procedures practised in 1985 by 25 countries representing all continents, was published in 1986 (Interbull Bulletin No. 2).

The following publication is the second edition and it covers 27 major dairy countries all over the world. 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 sire proofs are compared. All information refers to the situation in 1988.

Furthermore, information is given for each country on the number of bulls tested by breed each year and the average results of each year-group. Thus, it should be possible to follow the more recent trends in the bull populations of the various countries. This is especially true when BLUP or MCC procedures are applied. Although an extensive amount of information has been collected and published, it has not yet been possible to obtain complete information from all countries. However, the volume and quality of information provided has increased gradually.

When available, references are also given to literature that provides further details on the methodology being applied. The postal address of the organization responsible for the genetic evaluation in each country is also included.

This bulletin is published so as to provide information to be used in international bull catalogues, by AI studs or breeders, for educational purposes, and wherever else international information on sire evaluation procedures or breeding programs is needed.

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On behalf of the INTERBULL Committee
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Dr. Jan Philipsson
Coordinator