

## PREFACE

One of the objectives of INTERBULL is to provide standardized information on sire evaluation procedures applied in various dairy producing countries. A first edition, describing sire evaluation procedures applied for production traits in 25 countries was published in 1985 (INTERBULL Bulletin 2); a second such edition considering 27 countries was published in 1988 (INTERBULL Bulletin 3).

This bulletin is the third edition and includes information on sire evaluation procedures applied for production traits in 28 countries. Information is summarized from the most recent response of each individual country to the INTERBULL surveys.

To facilitate the reading of this publication, each breed or group of breeds is identified with a roman number (I, II, III, etc.), if different information apply. In some cases, if no precise information is available a range of estimates may be given. Information that apply to all breeds are listed without any indication number.

One of the most interesting developments in sire evaluation procedures over the last few years illustrated in this publication, is the wide acceptance of the Individual Animal Model as means of more accurate genetic evaluations. Due to important and rapid improvements in programming strategies and computer capacities, this method can now be applied on very large data sets. As a result, the Individual Animal Model is currently implemented in 14 countries compared to 3 in 1988 when the previous INTERBULL Bulletin on sire evaluations was published.

Information published here may be used in international bull catalogues, by AI studs or breeders, for educational or research purposes, or anywhere considered necessary.

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