

INTERBULL Audit Expert Group: Preliminary report¹

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The group was formed in April 1995 with main objective to provide, on a country request, an assurance that genetic evaluations produced in this country are as accurate as possible and comply with internationally accepted standard requirements. The group has now met twice. Some main points discussed follow:

- 1 Breeding value estimation is more than computer programmes. Accuracy and bias depend on testing programme, data collection, model used in the evaluation, and appropriate pre-adjustments.
- 2 The working group recommends that INTERBULL does not issue stamps or certificates, but concentrates on expert services.
- 3 Updated recommendations/guidelines on breeding value estimation methods for national evaluations must be produced.
- 4 The ICAR guidelines should be referred to for data recording and collection.
- 5 INTERBULL Bulletins 4, 5, and 6 should be updated and expanded. This information should also be made available on-line in addition to the printed version.
- 6 The working group suggests that INTERBULL expand their service to include assessment and definition of methods to check national testing and evaluation systems. Reference data sets and/or computer programmes may be considered for this matter.
- 7 The working group is discussing to set up a trial with volunteering countries to evaluate the possibility to create and use a reference data set for evaluating national breeding value estimation programmes. Inputs from other experts will also be sought.
- 8 The working group is discussing the idea of applying ISO-standards for national breeding value estimation.

¹ Open Session, INTERBULL Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic, September 7-8, 1995