

# PREFACE

## INTERBULL BULLETIN NO. 13

This bulletin comprises summarized information on sire evaluation procedures applied to non-dairy-production as well as growth and beef production traits in dairy and dual-purpose cattle populations in various countries. Information was collected from individual countries in the form of a survey designed and circulated during the second half of 1995.

Responses revealed an increasing number of countries now considering evaluation systems for such traits, compared to an earlier survey published in Bulletin No. 6, 1992. Although substantial variation in the way these traits are being represented in different countries exists, steps towards standardization in definition of some traits across countries have been noted.

In this bulletin an effort was made to summarize information in a standard form without, however, masking sire evaluation system attributes that were specific to individual countries.

Non-dairy-production traits were classified into the following categories; each category is being dealt with separately, by country, in Part A of this publication:

Reproduction-calving	including calving performance related traits, stillbirth rate, size of calf, and gestation length
Reproduction-fertility	including non-return rates and interval traits
Health	including clinical mastitis related traits, somatic cell count, and other diseases
Workability	including milking speed, other milking related traits, temperament, and traits related to farmers' overall opinion about their cattle
Conformation	including udder, locomotion related, and other body conformation traits
Longevity	including survival to different stages and productive/herd life

Growth and beef production traits are discussed separately, by country, in Part B.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to all those who responded to the survey and also made themselves available for follow-up clarifications.

This publication was financed by the INTERBULL members and supporting organizations; their contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

For the INTERBULL Centre  
April 1996

Jeanet Brandsma, M.Sc.  
Research Assistant

Georgios Banos, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Project Leader