

PREFACE

Interbull technical workshop is a recurring event with a scope to address technical questions pertinent to international evaluations and developments in Interbull services. The purpose of these workshops is to provide a vivid discussion forum for the Interbull member organizations and facilitate speedy communications among them. Consequently, papers presented to Interbull technical workshops, although always of high quality, are rather informal in nature. This is because the dissemination of information between various countries' genetic evaluation centers has the highest priority, and it is quite feasible that the time lag between obtaining the numerical results and presentation of these results to the workshop to be as short as one week. The informal nature of papers has been the main reason for not publishing any proceedings for the Interbull technical workshops.

However, the most recent workshop held in Verden, Germany, October 22-23, 2000 and organized by VIT had the added feature of three invited papers. Interbull Centre had invited three speakers to address the workshop on the subject of "Data quality" in order to set the stage for discussions amongst Interbull members for preparation of a new set of "Interbull Recommendations for National & International Genetic Evaluation Systems of Production Traits in Dairy Cattle". The three invited papers covered all aspects of data quality in national genetic evaluation systems, including pre-evaluation, evaluation and post-evaluation steps, and were given by Drs Gottfried Averdunk, George Wiggans and Mark Jeffries, respectively. Because the three invited papers are of general interest to both industry and research community, it was decided that the proceedings of the workshop should be made available for a larger audience. Of course, some of the papers presented to the workshop do not appear in the proceedings because of their informal nature and the desire to publish the proceedings as soon as possible.

We would like to thank all participants, especially the three invited speakers, for their contributions. Also, we appreciate the efforts of the local organizing committee at VIT who made the Interbull Technical Workshop at Verden a success.

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