

Report from ICAR Working Group on Recording Animal Health and Fertility

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1. Introduction

The international recording organisation, ICAR, works partly through different working groups. Some of these groups are permanent and some work during a limited period. A new working group was set up by ICAR with the purpose to investigate recording of health and fertility parameters.

Some of the terms of reference are:

- * Prepare updates for relevant appendices of the International Agreement of Recording Practices
- * Survey of the situation of
 - health and fertility recording and definitions
 - the way of reporting and recording health and fertility information.

The members of the group are: Gerben de Jong, Netherlands; Ephraim Ezra, Israel; Jörn Pedersen, Denmark; Reinhart Reents, Germany; Gary Rogers, USA; Jean-Marc Vacelet, France; Hans Ekström and Gunilla Bratt, Sweden.

2. ICAR

ICAR started as a milk recording organisation with the purpose to standardise and approve of milk recording practises. From the start member organisations came from European countries. Registration of milk and analyse of milk components have been important topics within ICAR. A substantial work has been done in these fields and competence and experiences from different countries together formed useful standards, calibration procedures and international testing of equipment. This has

made recording work more efficient and international comparison of milk recording figures more meaningful.

As the work in ICAR progressed more countries outside Europe joined the organisation and new aspects of recording of animals were introduced in the work of ICAR. Examples are beef recording, sheep and goat recording and Interbull.

3. Integration of recorded parameters

Today it is clear that milk recording is an essential base for genetic improvement and herd management. There is a growing awareness that milk recording programs have great potential as source not only for recording of milk yield and milk components but also for a number of other important parameters. The integration of “new” parameters with traditional milk recording as the foundation give us a great potential for improved production of dairy cattle. The aim of the working group is to highlight on this, regarding health and fertility parameters.

The field of health and fertility recording is very wide and the practical possibilities for recording are numerous. As mentioned earlier recording can be established for genetic improvement and management purposes. The ideal situation is, of course, if these can be combined. The costs for recording is shared. Most important, however, is that a farmer who will utilise data for management in his own herd is motivated to feed the system with high-quality data. This will influence breeding- evaluation in a positive manner. If the recorder is a veterinarian he will probably react in a similar way regarding his individual benefit of data in his practice.

4. The working group

As there is substantial work going on within Interbull we will concentrate mostly on the other aspects. A questionnaire is sent out to the member organisations. We are planning to meet as many as possible at the EAAP conference in Vienna where a first proposal from the group

can be discussed. After that we will meet by e-mail and work out a paper to be presented at the ICAR-conference January 1998 in New Zealand.

Hopefully we can stimulate recording and breeding-herd book organisations to co-operate even more closely in order to record and utilise data in an efficient way for different purposes.



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Livestock Breeding and Production

Marketing/Gunilla Bratt/ED

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To the member organisations of ICAR

Questionnaire concerning health and fertility recording

On behalf of the ICAR working group for health and fertility recording we kindly ask you to answer this questionnaire.

Please send your answers to:

Gunilla Bratt
SHS
S- 631 84 Hållsta
Sweden
Tel. 016- 16 34 91
Fax. 016- 212 16
e-mail:gunilla.bratt@svhs.se

A: National database

Do you have a national database?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes , which type of animals are included?

All cattle, dairy and beef. Yes ☐ No ☐

All dairy cattle. Yes ☐ No ☐

Milk recorded cows Yes ☐ No ☐

Other, namely:

B: Management of the national database

Is your database handled by a government body?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Is your database handled by a recording organisation?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Is your database handled by any other type of organisation? What type of organisation?



C: Other type of recording of health and fertility parameters.

Do you have any organised registration of health and fertility parameters apart from the national database? (veterinarians, extension service etc.).

Yes ☐ No ☐

If the answer is yes, what type of registration ?

D: Type of information in milk recording which concerns health and fertility

Do you have the following information in your milk recording scheme?

Cellcounts:

Yes, compulsory ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

Yes, optional ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

No ☐

Disease recording reported by farmers:

Yes, compulsory ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

Yes, optional ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

No ☐

Disease recording reported by veterinarians:

Yes, compulsory ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

Yes, optional ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐



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No ☐

Calving performance:

Yes, compulsory ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

Yes, optional ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

No ☐

Still born calves:

Yes, compulsory ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

Yes, optional ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

No ☐

Malformed calves:

Yes, compulsory ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

Yes, optional ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

No ☐

Inseminations:

Yes, compulsory ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

Yes, optional ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

No ☐

Pregnancy diagnosis:

Yes, compulsory ☐



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all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

Yes, optional ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

No ☐

Fertility treatments:

Yes, compulsory ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

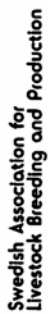
Yes, optional ☐

all cows ☐

1st lactations only ☐

other group of cows ☐

No ☐



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E. Please note more in detail which parameters from above (D) you record and use today

If you record diseases note which kind of diseases etc.

[illegible]



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F. Pedigree information about recorded cows

What proportion of your recorded cows are identified by official sire id?

What proportion of your recorded cows are identified by official maternal grand sire id.?

Yours sincerely,

SWEDISH ASSOCIATION FOR LIVESTOCK BREEDING AND PRODUCTION
Marketing, Milk Recording & AI

Gunilla Bratt