



2011 INTERBULL MEETING

Stavanger, Norway
August 26 to 28, 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2011 Interbull meeting took place at the Radisson Blu Atlantic Hotel, in Stavanger, Norway, from August 26 to 28, 2011. A total of 52 scientific reports were presented in the Open Meeting, which represents one of the largest numbers ever in Interbull meetings. Part of the increase was due to the sessions dedicated to reports from the Robust Milk project, which dealt especially with genetics of functional traits in dairy cattle. The 2011 Interbull Meeting was particularly special because it was dedicated to show gratitude for the immeasurable contributions of two colleagues: Jan Philipsson, who left the position of Interbull Secretary that he occupied since 1983, and Larry Schaeffer, who developed methods extremely important for Interbull, particularly MACE, which is used in the Interbull international comparisons. As usual, two business meetings took place and the Interbull permanent committees (ITC, SAC and SC) had also working meetings during this period. The main developments and decisions are summarized below.

SERVICE CALENDAR

Since the April 2013 routine run coincides with the Easter holidays, it was proposed to postpone the release date in one week (April 9, 2013) but maintain the same data submission date (March 19, 2013). No objections were expressed at the Business meeting.

MANDATE OF SC MEMBERS

Both the SC and the representatives in the business meeting corroborate the appointment of Andrew Cromie to replace Hans Wilmink, the re-appointment of Gert Pedersen Aamand and the re-appointment of Reinhard Reents (also as chairman). Now the ICAR board will decide on the approval of the indications.

Name	Country	(Re)elected	End of term	Comments
Brian Van Doormaal	Canada	2009	2013	
Juraj Candrák	Slovakia	2008	2012	
Enrico Santus	Italy	2008	2012	
Gert Pedersen Aamand	Denmark	2007	2011	Proposed re-appointment 2011-2015
Hans Wilmink	Netherlands	2010	2011	Finished in 2011
Sophie Mattalia	France	2010	2014	
Reinhard Reents	Germany	2007	2011	Re-appointed in 2010 as chairman 2011-2015
Marjorie Faust	USA	2009	2013	
Bevin Harris	New Zealand	2009	2013	
Andrew Cromie	Ireland			Proposed appointment 2011-2015

Gert Pedersen Aamand has replaced Hans Wilmink as chairman of the ITC.

The Interbull community would like to express a deep gratitude for all years of dedication that Hans Wilmink has donated to both the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee. Hans has now taken another role as member of the ICAR board and will certainly continue contributing with Interbull.

INTERBULL SERVICE FEES

The Interbull service fees have not been updated since 1998 and the only growth observed was due to the increment in the number of participating country-trait group combinations. This type of increment has slowed down in the past few years and it is counterbalanced by the reduction in the cow populations in several countries (which is the basic criteria to define the variable portion of the fees). Considering also that the accumulated inflation in Sweden in the period (Jan 1998 to Jul 2011) is of 21.13%, it is proposed that the service fees should be readjusted in 2012 to avoid an estimated negative balance of over € 100,000. The SC will present a proposal of readjustment in service fees to all customers in October 2011. The principle will be that the readjustment accounts for the effects of increased inflation minus increase in efficiency at the IBC and for costs related to additional services, such as the GEBV validation test.

S-GMACE

- Results of the second pilot run were presented at the Open meeting and discussed at the ITC
 - Good progress was made to address the issues raised at the Guelph workshop
 - A different approach than the original S-GMACE is now proposed, where all GEBVs available for young bulls are used, but no GEBVs for progeny tested bulls are included
 - More research is needed to fully evaluate the properties of the new method
- ITBC should launch a new data call immediately and data submission should be expected for end of September/beginning of October
- The data call should:
 - Define clearly which data is expected from the countries
 - Clarify what kind of results will be distributed back to participating countries
 - Open the possibility for countries to truncate the young bull data by age, but all animals (selected + culled) must be included within the same age
 - Countries using the truncation by age must clearly inform what criteria was adopted
 - Participating countries will receive results back only for the publishable foreign young bulls and for all domestic young bulls
 - Pedigree completeness should be emphasized
- Results must be back to the countries in a reasonable time before the workshop in Verona (beginning of February 2012)

Sire-Dam Pedigree in MACE

Since a few outstanding questions about the changes in the evaluations due to the implementation of Sire-Dam Pedigree in MACE, the ITC has recommended to test a step-wise approach in order to explain the differences between MACE implementations with different pedigree structures:

- September 2011 test run
 - Official test run using Sire-MGS pedigree from the Interbull pedigree database
 - Pilot I – Sire-Dam pedigree with phantom parent groups assigned for 4 selection pathways and pedigree information from the Interbull pedigree database
 - Pilot II – Sire-Dam pedigree with phantom parent groups assigned for 2 selection pathways and pedigree information from the Interbull pedigree database
- Calendar

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
Oct 7, 2011	Results from the official and the 2 pilot runs for a selected group of traits (protein yield, somatic cell score, direct longevity, stature, cow conception ¹) should be sent to the ITC	ITBC
Oct 28, 2011	Recommendations to the SC	ITC
Nov 4, 2011	Final decision about implementation	SC
November 21, 2011	Results from the recommended pilot (I or II) for all traits are sent to all customers	ITBC
December 20, 2011	Deadline for national centers to provide feedback	NGEC
January 2012	Official test run using only Sire-Dam pedigree	ITBC
April 2012	Sire-Dam pedigree in MACE implemented in the routine run	ITBC

INTERGENOMICS

The Intergenomics Management Committee officially requested that Interbull starts providing genomic evaluation services for the BSW breed immediately. The Steering Committee decided that within next 2 weeks:

- Service contracts between ITBC and participating organizations must be sent to the SC
- A reviewed business plan for the Intergenomics services should be sent to the SC
- The summary of the discussions within the Management Committee should be sent to the SC
- A comprehensive technical report should be sent to the ITC providing evidence that the implemented models are technically sound and can receive the Interbull seal of approval (the ITC should take no longer than 3 weeks to send recommendations to the SC)

Service contracts should not be signed before the SC approves the new services.

In the business meeting a clear need for a platform for hosting and exchanging of genotypes among a defined group of customers was expressed.

GEBV TEST

- Results for all production traits showed by Anne Loberg in the Open meeting indicate that countries have no difficulties to validate for milk, fat and protein yields
- Interbull will continue the official validation for protein
- Reinhard Reents will inform ICAR about the new possibility to offer an official test for fat and milk (EU requirements according to 427/2006)
- The ITC will evaluate the validation results for functional traits at the ITC meeting in connection to the Verona workshop
- The Scientific Advisory Committee should also be consulted about the GEBV validation test

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

A technical workshop will be held at the Fieragricola, in Verona, Italy, from February 2-3, 2012. The theme will once more be genomic evaluations and improvements on the MACE evaluations.