



# World Holstein Friesian Federation

## NEWSLETTER No.3 JUNE 2010

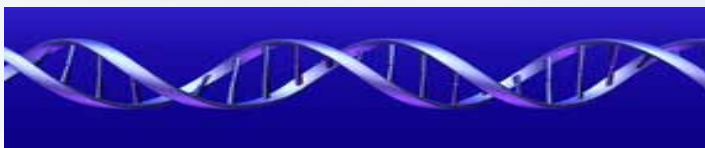
### Welcome to the third WHFF Newsletter

There is little doubt that this decade of the new millennium will witness some of the greatest changes in cattle breeding as the technology surrounding genomic selection develops and improves. In many ways this is the most significant development since the introduction of global indices and as such Council has discussed in detail the challenges and opportunities it delivers to Holstein Associations:

### *Genomic Selection*

has become the main industry taking point and in particular the effect it will have on cattle breeding in this decade and beyond. There is no doubt that the uptake of the science will have implications on all aspects of breeding and management offering new avenues. With the increase in accuracy of the low heritability traits, genomics may enable faster progress on the health and fertility traits. Results for breeding decisions will be available at a far earlier age and at less cost. The traditional landscape of cattle breeding is sure to be challenged.

One of the primary objectives of WHFF is the continued worldwide development of the Holstein breed, not only in production but important factors such as health, fertility and functional conformation traits. With all these points in mind Council had approved the creation of a Genomic Task Force, the first meeting arranged to coincide with both the WHFF Council meeting and the Interbull meeting on Genomics, held at the beginning of March in Paris.



### *WHFF Task Force*

The recent meeting was extremely successful, concluding that Holstein Associations face a number of challenges; however there are also many opportunities to embrace the technology and further improve the breed:

#### **Task Force recommendation summary**

- Statement on the different systems (breeding and organisational structure) around the globe. Due to different applications being used within Genomics, it is important that more information is available on the different methods used
- There is a clear requirement that for herd management, breed associations should focus on improved

services to farmers, which will assist both breeding and management decisions: Performance Recording is essential in future as well.

- o Registration
- o Parentage verification
- o Classification
- o Milk recording
- o Health Trait recording.

- The ability to verify parentage through SNPs may change the accepted methods of parentage verification.
- There is a clear indication that the number of bulls progeny tested will decrease. This will impact on type classification services.
- If reasonable reliability for type traits is reached, it could reduce the demand for classification for management and sire analysis purposes.
- The possibility to score new traits.
- The position of purebreds in the industry may change. (Due to genomics purebred animals could become less but get more importance).
- Finally, genomics offers the chance to find outcrosses within the global population, but it also has the risk to increase inbreeding.

### *The Electronic Data Exchange Working Group*

The EDE Working Group met to commence the development of B2B data exchange project. The group also had meetings with representatives from ISO, ICAR, and UNCEFACT in order that the project is suitable for multi applications within different sectors of the global industry.

WHFF has sent a web survey to members to ensure that the working group fully understands the requirements of our membership in the development of the project. This is one of the most exciting developments for WHFF members as it offers, for example, the prospect of continual updating of performance information of progeny from animals located in other countries



### **Holstein Canada welcomes a new CEO**

The President of Holstein Canada Germain Lehoux (left) welcomes new CEO Brian Van Doormaal, the current General Manager of the Canadian Dairy Network (CDN). Brian Van Doormaal will continue in his current role at CDN, but assumes dual responsibilities from June 21st.

### **The Type Harmonisation Workshop**

This year's Workshop was attended by 50 classifiers from 28 countries. Representatives from China, Korea and the swissherdbook attended for the first time. The practical workshop concentrated on the assessment of legs, feet, and locomotion. The main recommendations were for countries to score and evaluate to the WHFF trait definitions; this would improve the correlations between countries. The success of the project, which commenced in 1992, with the first Interbull evaluation in 1999, may be judged by the improvement in correlations between countries of average 0.80 to 0.85. A full report of the workshop will be presented at the next General Assembly.

### **Working Group Members at the 9th World Classifiers Workshop;**



### **WHFF welcomes two new members:**

#### **Holstein RO**

The new Holstein Association of Romania. Formed in 2009 with 43 members and over 14,000 Holsteins we wish the group continued success and development of the Holstein breed throughout Romania.

#### **swissherdbook**

Since the 1st March 2010, the new name of the Swiss Red & White Cattle Breeders' Association is swissherdbook. Established in 1890 under the former name, swissherdbook has been a member of the European Holstein and Red Holstein Confederation since its foundation in 2003. It has just over 11,000 members registering over 164,000 Holsteins.

### **International Holstein Breeding**

The international aspects of Holstein Breeding require development of programs that are truly global in nature. To achieve this, it is important to work in association with other international recording agencies to ensure the correct focus and reduce unnecessary duplication. To this end, WHFF has extended its cooperation with the International Committee of Animal Recording (ICAR) by taking a place on the Parentage Working Group.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Holstein Cattle Breeders Association of the Czech Republic on celebrating its 20th anniversary. WHFF was honoured to be invited to make a presentation on the Holstein breed and the activities of WHFF.

### **WHFF Web**

[www.whff.info](http://www.whff.info) continues to progress and it is extremely pleasing that we are receiving a steady increase in the number of visits from all over the world. We are also trying to develop a number of pages in relation to Holsteins and the environment, Holsteins and fertility. If your organisation has any information connected with these issues or anything else it would like posted on the site, please send the details to [whff@btinternet.com](mailto:whff@btinternet.com)

### **2012 World Holstein Conference**

The new World Holstein Conference website is now up and running and can be found at <http://events.holstein.ca/> The 13th Conference will be held in Canada from November 1st - 10th 2012 and for the first time, will include a World Holstein Youth Conference



### **DIARY DATES**

29th and 30th October, 2010  
EHRC European Championship  
European Star Sale  
European Junior Showmanship Competition  
Cremonafiere, Cremona, Italy

February 2011  
WHFF Council meeting

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

4th - 7th July 2011  
EHRC General Assembly, Sweden

4th - 10th November 2012  
WHFF General Assembly, Canada