

WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

TYPE HARMONISATION

Aim

To maintain and improve harmonisation of inspection techniques and statistical performance within International Linear Assessment and Type Classification programs.

Working Group Focus

The group will concentrate its activities on the following issues:-

- The definition of the biological extremes of all standard linear traits.
- The methodology and assessment for each trait.
- Aim to improve the reliability of information through improved inspection methods
- Investigate the introduction of new traits which must have the following criteria: essential, heritable, measurable, and of economic importance.
- Recommend methods for Classifier monitoring and training programs.
- Organise a biennial Head Classifier workshop.

Composition of the Working Group

The working group should consist of around 7 people in total:-

- 5 members from Herdbook organisation - Head Classifiers.
- 1 member with data and genetic evaluation analysis experience.
- 1 member from ICAR.
- The Council will designate one of its Members to serve as liaison between the WG and the Council

The WHFF Council will nominate the Chairman and candidates for the Working Group. The position of Chairman of the Working Group is renewable for two year terms, and may continue to be renewed for a further two years by the WHFF Council.

Procedure

The chairman of the Working Group should arrange a meeting of the group at least once a year, with a workshop every second year. Communication for the group should be by email. All recommendations must be supported by well researched papers.

International Workshops

International workshops are exclusively for WHFF members. Workshops are organised on a global basis to ensure all countries can attend.

The workshop must combine practical and theoretical sessions, with the emphasis on practical assessment.

Budget

- If required a budget can be requested at WHFF-Council.
- Travel expenses of the WG-members are considered to be taken by their individual employers.

Reports

The Chairman of the Working Group should report the activities of the group to WHFF Council each year. A report detailing the workshop and any subsequent recommendations must be presented to Council for consideration and final acceptance at the General Assembly.

The final decisions are communicated on the Internet: www.whff.info. The complete history of the developments are also provided "International type evaluation of dairy cattle" including all recommendations. In addition a downloadable linear instruction module is also available.

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