INTRODUCTION

The latest routine international evaluation for calving traits took place as scheduled at the Interbull Centre. Data from sixteen (16) countries were included in this evaluation.

International genetic evaluations for calving traits of bulls from Australia, Austria-Germany, Belgium, Canada, Denmark-Finland-Sweden, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America were computed. Holstein data were included in this evaluation.

CAN, DEU, DFS, GBR, ITA and NLD contributed GEBVs.

dce: DEU, DFS, GBR, ITA, NLD
mce: CAN, DEU, DFS, GBR, ITA, NLD
dsb: CAN, DEU, DFS, ITA, NLD
msb: DEU, DFS, ITA, NLD

CHANGES IN NATIONAL PROCEDURES

Changes in the national genetic evaluation of calving traits are as follows:

NOR RDC The rolling definition of hys is causing the daughters to distribute somewhat differently over hys-classes at each evaluation. Therefore some bulls occasionally may lose EDC although the number of daughters stay the same. Reliability changes is a function of the EDC changes.

USA HOL Base change dsb and msb.

INTERBULL CHANGES COMPARED TO THE DECEMBER ROUTINE RUN

No changes in Interbull procedures

DATA AND METHOD OF ANALYSIS

Data were national genetic evaluations of AI sampled bulls with at least 10 daughters or 10 EDC (for clinical mastitis and maternal calving traits at least 50 daughters or 50 EDC, and for direct calving traits at least 50 calvings or 50 EDC) in at least 10 herds. Table 1 presents the amount of data included in this Interbull evaluation for all breeds.

National proofs were first de-regressed within country and then analysed jointly with a linear model including the effects of evaluation country, genetic group of bull and bull merit. Heritability estimates used in both the de-regression and international evaluation were as in each country's national evaluation.

Table 2 presents the date of evaluation as supplied by each country in the 01x-proof file.

Estimated genetic parameters and sire standard deviations are shown in APPENDIX I and the corresponding number of common bulls are listed in APPENDIX II.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

The international genetic evaluation procedure is based on international work described in the following scientific publications:

International genetic evaluation computation:

Schaeffer. 1994. J. Dairy Sci. 77:2671-2678
Klei, 1998. Interbull Bulletin 17:3-7

Verification and Genetic trend validation:

Klei et al., 2002. Interbull Bulletin 29:178-182.
Boichard et al., 1995. J. Dairy Sci. 78:431-437

Weighting factors:
Fikse and Banos, 2001. J. Dairy Sci. 84:1759-1767

De-regression:
Sigurdsson and G. Banos. 1995. Acta Agric. Scand. 45:207-219
Jairath et al. 1998. J. Dairy Sci. Vol. 81:550-562

Genetic parameter estimation:
Klei and Weigel, 1998, Interbull Bulletin 17:8-14
Sullivan, 1999. Interbull Bulletin 22:146-148

Post-processing of estimated genetic correlations:
Mark et al., 2003, Interbull Bulletin 30:126-135
Jorjani et al., 2003. J. Dairy Sci. 86:677-679
https://wiki.interbull.org/public/rG%20procedure?action=print

Time edits
Weigel and Banos. 1997. J. Dairy Sci. 80:3425-3430

International reliability estimation
Harris and Johnson. 1998. Interbull Bulletin 17:31-36

NEXT ROUTINE INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

The next routine evaluation of Interbull for production, conformation, udder health, longevity, calving, female fertility and workability traits is scheduled for April 2015. Deadline for sending data to the Interbull Centre is Tuesday November 18, 2014, 17:00 CET; confidential distribution of results is targeted for Wednesday November 26, 2014, with earliest possible official release of results on March 23, 2015. Please remark the three week turnaround time.

NEXT TEST INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

The next test run for production, conformation, udder health, longevity, calving, female fertility and workability traits will take place in February 2015. Countries planning to introduce changes in their national evaluation procedures and wishing to have them included in the routine Interbull evaluation, should have their data examined in this test run. New data and validation results should be sent to the Interbull Centre no later than February 3, 2015, 17:00 CET.

PUBLICATION OF INTERBULL ROUTINE RUN

Results were distributed by the Interbull Centre to designated representatives in each country. The international evaluation file comprised international proofs expressed on the base and unit of each country included in the analysis. Such records readily provide more information on bull performance in various countries, thereby minimizing the need to resort to conversions.

At the same time, all recipients of Interbull results are expected to honor the agreed code of practice, decided by the Interbull Steering Committee, and only publish international evaluations on their own country scale. Evaluations expressed on another country scale are confidential and may only be used internally for research and review purposes.

Table 1. National evaluation dates in GMACE run August 2014

Country	Date
DFS	20141102
ITA	20141106
NLD	20141201
GBR	20141101
DEU	20141202

Table 2.

Number of bulls in reference population for					dce
DFS	22800.0				
ITA	841.0	22696.0			
NLD	21971.0	1051.0	23593.0		
GBR	966.0	22230.0	1199.0	23031.0	
DEU	22192.0	1008.0	22176.0	1227.0	25013.0

Number of bulls in reference population for					mce
CAN	18783.0				
DFS	1090.0	23265.0			
ITA	17454.0	834.0	17635.0		
NLD	1312.0	22417.0	1025.0	23690.0	
GBR	17841.0	956.0	17385.0	1168.0	17889.0
DEU	1356.0	22635.0	995.0	22622.0	1210.0	25438.0

Number of bulls in reference population for					dsb
CAN	21952.0				
DFS	1097.0	22505.0			
ITA	20146.0	837.0	20507.0		
NLD	1331.0	21675.0	1034.0	22922.0	
DEU	1371.0	21859.0	1004.0	21809.0	24619.0

Number of bulls in reference population for					msb
DFS	23157.0				
ITA	830.0	16051.0			
NLD	22312.0	1001.0	23489.0		
DEU	22506.0	988.0	22484.0	25271.0	