ICAR Animal Identification and Registration System (AIRS) – International Best Practices

Martin Burke, René van der Linde, Andie Dimitriadou
1-10-2021
ICAR’s members

ICAR has 112 members (82 Full members + 30 Associate members) in 59 countries

Countries (in dark blue) with at least one organisation as ICAR Member – for full list see www.icar.org
ICAR is an international NGO that works with its members to provide global standards for livestock data.

In this world’s connected markets, ICAR independently helps to guide and secure quality of livestock related products, with guidelines and certification.
Introducing ICAR - Mission Statement

ICAR wants to improve the profitability, and sustainability of farm animal production by:

- Establishing and maintaining guidelines and standards for best practice in all aspects of animal identification and recording.
- Certifying equipment, and processes used in animal identification, recording and genetic evaluations.
- Stimulating and leading: continuous improvement, innovation, research, knowledge development, and knowledge exchange.
ICAR Current Technical Organisation

4 Permanent Sub-Committees

- Animal identification Devices SC
- Recording & Sampling Devices SC
- Milk Analysis SC
- Interbull SC

10 Working Groups

- Animal Data Exchange
- Artificial Insemination Technologies
- DNA WG
- Interbeef
- 'Feed & Gas'
- Breed Assns
- Conformation Recording
- Functional Traits
- Sheep, Goat & Small Camelids
- Dairy Cattle Milk Recording
- Dairy Beef Milk Recording
- Interbeef

Administrative bodies

ICAR Board & Committees
General Assembly
Certificate of Quality
Expert Advisory Group & Auditors
Sustainability Task Force
Traceability: Knowing food is safely produced and healthy to eat has always been a matter of vital importance.
It’s has been so down thru all times and ages.
Today’s food chains are more advanced and complex than ever before. Food is produced in one place, processed in another and consumed at yet another location, crossing borders more than once.
Civilians expect their governments and authorities to arrange safe marketplaces. They must be confident that the food they buy is safe to consume.

Governments and authorities therefore build ID & traceability systems to make sure that food is produced, imported and exported according to their quality standards.

Countries around the globe look to ICAR to harmonise these quality standards, allowing market access only to products that meet those standards.
ICAR’s runs a ISO registration service and an ICAR certification program for animal identification products such as ear tags.

ICAR only certifies products that meet high international quality standards.

Ear tags are an essential infrastructural element in establishing traceability, tracing the origin of food all the way back to the farm. Traceability is a powerful tool to establish trust in the safety of food production systems.

Animal identification also plays an important role in disease control and animal welfare.
Certification:
ICAR’s 4 Permanent SC’s are the Building Blocks

- ID/Traceability (“Foundation Stone”)
- Performance Recording
- Lab
- Genetic Evaluations

Underpinned by each Member’s National Central Livestock Database
All Guidelines accessible on www.icar.org

Section 10 for ID
ICAR’s (Independent) Tag Test Service;

- **Identification Tag Test and Certification**  
  (Chair Animal ID SC : Jo Quigley Australia)

  - ICAR and ISO have together developed test procedures, protocols and guidelines through which compliance of RFID systems with the ISO standards can be verified. (Section 10).

  - Since 2007, ICAR is the Registration Authority for ISO in respect to ID devices conforming to ISO Standards 11784 / 11785.

  - Working with our Industry stakeholders ICAR has introduced a QA system for ID, namely;

  Certification, 5Yr Retest, DCN, Field Validation Services.
Since 1995, ICAR has independently lab tested nearly 550 livestock identification devices, granting certification only to products that meet strict criteria according to the ICAR and ISO standards. Testing criteria include; design and impact on animal welfare; tamper-proofness; resistance to ageing; accuracy in programming and electronic communication.
ICAR is now releasing a higher level of Certification: ‘Field Sampling/Validation’

To help authorities and farmers select high quality products for their food production systems, ICAR in 2022 will add an advanced layer to its certification; **Field Sampling Validation**.

By sampling and testing product from the market over time, ICAR can quality assure products on a longer term basis.

Field validation is there to ensure that devices available in the markets remain compliant with the appropriate ISO and ICAR test protocols.

Manufacturers and products who comply with these sampling routines are rewarded with advanced certification by ICAR.
Summary of ICAR Certification Services to Members 2021

✓ ID Testing/Certification/Validation
✓ Recording & Sampling Devices Testing/Certification
✓ Milk Analysis Laboratory Proficiency Testing (PT)
✓ Milk Analysis Equipment Certification
✓ Genetic Analysis Laboratory Accreditation
✓ DNA Data Information Centre Accreditation
✓ Interbull / Interbeef Genetic Evaluations
✓ Certificate of Quality
For more see www.icar.org

Thank You!

Q&A