



## **EUROPEAN HOLSTEIN AND RED HOLSTEIN CONFEDERATION**

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### **2014 Eastern European Classifier Workshop Croatia, Dakovo 03-04.11.2014**

#### **History of Eastern European Classifier Workshop**

The Eastern European Classifier harmonization project commenced more than 10 years ago with practical workshops in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, with Hungary joining the group and hosting the 2004 workshop. Historically the task of organising worked on a rotational system amongst the three countries. The programme continued to expand and in 2010 Croatia joined the programme followed by more and more countries. In 2014, 8 countries with 37 participants accepted the invitation to the workshop in Dakovo, which was organized by the Central Croatian Holstein Association (cooperated with Croatian Agriculture Agency).

#### **Participating Countries:**

- Croatia.
- Poland.
- Slovakia.
- Czech Republic.
- Slovenia.
- Serbia.
- Macedonia. (A newly established Holstein Association; this was their first international workshop )
- Hungary.

#### **Workshop Programme**

During the theoretical session each country made a 15-minute presentation about their main program, results, classification, numbers etc.

For the practical session a farm was visited. Three working groups were created with three leaders from different countries, all classifying together resulting in meaningful discussions. After finishing the workshop, the groups discussed the 'challenging cows' of the day. During the classification workshop the main focus was on the trait definitions and how to apply them consistently at the highest level.

#### **Conclusion**

Working together with the countries in small groups presented great opportunity for detailed discussions for all members of the groups. The group leaders tried to work with everybody in the

group in the same way, but the goal wasn't to work mostly at personal level, but to know the 'countries opinions and thinking', and essentially how some traits are evaluated in different countries, with a view to try and achieve greater harmonisation by following the official recommendations.

A few questions were raised which require answers for the next workshop:

- The rear udder width as linear trait is not on the WHFF list - on the ICAR list you can find the definition (Width of the udder at the point where the milk secretion tissue is attached to the body) but is classified by many countries. For the improved results this requires further harmonisation.
- Locomotion and 'evaluate' the locomotion requires further harmonisation.
- The official definition of dairy strength is: -  
An angular, open and well-sprung fore and rear rib with a wide chest and sufficient depth of body to support the ability to produce milk". In practice different countries have special percentages of the different linear traits together with additional, not linear traits, to create the points.

One open question:

- There was an interesting question: what do the different countries do with an udder, which has one or two blind quarters? Many countries, many solutions.

### **The Next Workshop**

Will be organized by Slovakia in the autumn of 2015.

### **2014 Eastern European Judging School Participants**

