



## **World Holstein Friesian Federation**

### **WHFF Type Harmonisation Project**

“ The GLOBAL TYPE HARMONISATION PROGRAMME has been one of the most successful projects of the WORLD HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN FEDERATION, resulting in the adoption of the recommended type evaluation system by 95 % of the WHFF members”, according to David Hewitt, pioneer of the project.

Globally, the world of genetics is getting smaller with increasing demand for comprehensive high quality information on individual type characteristics. Type data collected in an internationally harmonised programme is the key to meeting this requirement, similar to the international system of collecting milk records to ICAR approved standards. The alternative, which returns to the situation of the '80's, is the collection of type traits in an uncoordinated way, with individual countries collecting and disseminating data to different requirements, making it impossible to directly evaluate or compare sires from different countries populations.

Head Classifiers Workshops have been the foundation to the development of the WHFF Type Harmonisation programme. Removed from the political meanderings of the industry, this group of influential experts have a common desire to evaluate animals to a common international standard. This has achieved an improvement in the quality and quantity of type information, which has been further enhanced by the introduction of precise definitions for each linear trait. The quality of the information collected has enabled the calculation of multiple across country evaluations (MACE) for type, which are established as the benchmarks of international sire evaluation.

The workshop also provides the opportunity for emerging counties to send staff to be trained, in addition to understanding the importance of monitoring the standard of classifiers' work. Advice is given by a number of countries that have sophisticated programs to ensure classifiers work consistently to a high standard. This type of methodology is recommended to assist countries to ensure the standards of the WHFF programme are adhered to.

Head Classifiers Workshops continue to be an essential element if the WHFF is to retain the momentum of the global type harmonisation programme, and continue the Holstein's success worldwide.