



2010 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first EHRC Newsletter informing members of the activities of EHRC. In addition, a new dedicated EHRC homepage has been launched as part of the WHFF web site. In future this will be the main communication channel for EHRC information and details of forthcoming events and activities.

The Committee meeting in February, 2010, discussed and planned a number of EHRC activities. The following information summarises the meeting and decisions made.

The European Judging Panel project continues to develop, building on the excellent workshop in Spain. The Official European Judges Panel is currently being updated and will be available on the EHRC web page. The working group will also be extended with two new members, which will allow existing members to retire. In addition a new format for future judging workshops is being discussed, which will encourage greater debate on the merits of individual animals. The proposal is to work with a working group member in small judging groups, thus enabling detailed discussion on the Judging of individual animals; complemented by the appropriate comments to describe the placing of the animal in the final line up.

The 2010 European Championship will be held on Saturday 30th October, 2010, at Cremonafiere, Cremona, Italy. The show will include individual Black and Red Holstein Championships, inter Country competition and Progeny Group demonstrations. The official Judge for both the Black and Red individual Holstein classes is Mr J Gribbon from the UK. In addition the following associated events are also planned:

The European Star Sale, offering the very best Holstein genetics available from throughout Europe, will take place at the same venue. Full details will be available later in the year.

The European Showmanship Competition a new junior event for EHRC member organisations will be held on Friday 29th October, with teams of two young people representing their country's Holstein Association.

The 2010 European Championship and associated events are being administered by ANAFI and promises to be the biggest EHRC championship event to date with over 150 animals entered. The final programme and event schedule will be available on the EHRC web home page.

The 'Proteje' project is targeted to deliver its final results and recommendations in January, 2011. Preliminary results and proposals will be circulated to all EHRC members during the year for comment and hopefully commitment to this new and exciting European Total Merit Indexing initiative.

EHRC is working with a number of European agencies, through the WHFF Electronic Data Exchange Group, in developing a business to business (B2B) system for herdbooks to electronically exchange and update import/export performance information on individual animals. The benefits of the proposal are that performance information of relatives, irrespective of country of residence, will be updated automatically between cooperating countries.

A new initiative entitled the Central Eastern European classifiers workshop (CEE) has increased the opportunities to train classifiers to the standards of the WHFF Type Harmonisation program, at local and regional level. The first workshop was a great success and the intention is to continue this regional format, thereby reducing travel costs and time.

The Committee have also drafted a revised EHRC Constitution. This is necessary as the European Holstein breeding industry continues to evolve and it is essential that EHRC keeps pace with change. The new Constitution will be presented to the 2011 General Assembly for approval.

The EHRC Secretaries meeting will be held between the 15th and 17th June, 2010, Zadar, Croatia, by kind invitation of the Croatian Holstein Association, a new EHRC member. The programme is specifically for EHRC Holstein Association Secretaries, and provides you with an opportunity to make a short presentation on any new program or initiative your organisation has introduced. In addition there will be sections of the day dedicated to genomics and the likely impact on Holstein Associations and Holstein breeding. Please contact the secretary at dehewitt@btinternet.com if you would like to make a presentation or discuss how your organisation intends to deal with genomics. This is the ideal venue to strengthen the cooperation of the European Holstein community. Full programme of events will be available later on the EHRC web page.

EHRC welcomes new member Holstein Ro, the new Holstein Association of Romania. The Association was inaugurated in 2009, with over 14,000 registered Holsteins and 43 members.

New Name: swissherdbook
Since the 1st March 2010, the new name of the Swiss Red & White Cattle Breeders' Association is **swissherdbook**. Established in 1890 under the former name, swissherdbook is member of the European Holstein and Red Holstein Confederation since its foundation in 2003 and new member

of the World Holstein Friesian Federation since March 2010.

EHRC is cooperating with the Holstein Cattle Breeders Association of the Czech Republic, in surveying EU Holstein Association members about herdbook activities and administration practices. This is an extremely important survey and I urge all members to complete and return the information.

New Web page: EHRC has a new web page which is part of the WHFF web site. <http://www.whff.info/info/ehrc.php>

EHRC Diary Dates:

15 -17th June, 2010: EHRC Secretaries Meeting, Zadar, Croatia.

29th and 30th October, 2010: European Championship, Cremonafiere, Cremona, Italy.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The next EHRC General Assembly will be held in Sweden 4th – 7th July 2011. Details will be available in the future on the EHRC Web home page.

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