Introduction

This department aims to stimulate interaction among member studbooks. The idea is to identify topics of interest from general meetings and surveys then encourage the use of project fora to explore these topics. The Department acts as facilitator and does not get up or suggest topics for exploration.

Activity Summary

Last year, our objective was to encourage discussion on genomic applications for breed improvement. In 2017 data was collected to determine if genomic practices were already a part of the studbook activities. In addition, a Standing Committee on Collaborative Implementation of Genomic Applications (SC-CIGA, Chair: Emma Thorén Hellsten) was constituted to collect and document information regarding cooperation on genomic practices and to facilitate a future forum on cooperation. SC-CIGA met twice in 2017 and once in 2018.

After the CIGA workshop held in Billund during the 2017 GA, the primary goal for 2018 was to provide base line reference documentation regarding the three major areas of interest - Linear profiling, Breeding values and Genomic selection. The basic definitions and reference links were published on the WBFSH web site under other activities - Fora. A second CIGA workshop is slated for Monday December 3rd. This workshop will provide information on the status of genomic selection from a number of member studbooks. It is hoped that this sharing of information on current activities will reveal opportunities for collaborative initiatives and provide a catalyst for future cooperation.

Part of the year was spent working with a newly struck Marketing Committee developing a Marketing and Communications Plan. That plan includes more direct communication with breeders and finding ways to improve the dissemination of information regarding WBFSH activities such as CIGA and other valuable information resources. For example, it is planned that such information will have a more prominent place on the web site. The Department has noted, in the past, that the invitation to participate or to respond to communications was not taken up by many of our studbooks. The department hopes it will be productive to communicate more directly with breeders so that the WBFSH initiatives have wider recognition and therefore will receive more positive attention from studbook administrators.

The department welcomes comments and suggestions.

Respectfully submitted

Chris Gould
Vice President
Internal Cooperation
tsf1@telus.net

Edward Kendall
Executive Committee Director
Internal Cooperation
ekendall@yourlink.ca