



Minutes of the Council Meeting of the World Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation

Tuesday, **22nd June 2004**, 9.00 to 12.00 a.m., Hotel Radisson SAS, Aarhus, Denmark
Incl. the meetings of the sub-committees: Monday, 21st June 2004, 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

List of representatives

Country	Representatives	Proxy to
Argentina	-	Germany
Australia	Ian Marshall	
Brazil	-	-
Bulgaria	-	-
Denmark	Steen Grunnet	
Germany	Franz Stürzer	
France	-	-
United Kingdom	Brian Filby	
Ireland	-	-
Italy	Hugo Valentin	
Canada	Bruce Holmquist	
Croatia	Milan Bolic	-
Mexico	-	
Namibia	-	Austria
New Zealand	-	-
Austria	Richard Pichler	
Romania	-	-
Sweden	Lars Svensson	
Switzerland	Emanuel Germann	
Serbia	Vlastimir Jovanovic	
Slovakia	-	Czech Republic
Slovenia	Marjan Spur	
Spain	-	-
South Africa	-	Germany
Czech Republic	Josef Kucera	
Hungary	Imre Füller	
Uruguay	-	-
USA	Robert Haralson	
Total	15	4

Agenda

1. Greeting and opening of the meeting
 2. Ascertainment of the countries present and the quorum
 3. Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on August 19, 2003 in Bozeman, USA
 4. Deliberations of the sub-committees
 - „*Budget and Membership*“, chairman Emanuel Germann
 - Acceptance of the account 2003 and budget 2005
 - „*Breed Publicity and Promotion*“, chairman Josef Kucera
 - „*Technical*“, chairman Georg Röhrmoser
 - „*Beef production*“, chairman Peter Speers (by proxy R. Haralson)
 5. Elections: Members of sub-committees
 6. Information about the next Council meeting 2005 (Mexico) and the next Congress 2006 (Canada)
 7. Any other business
-

Deliberations

1. Greeting and opening of the meeting

President Robert Haralson welcomes all the delegates and opens the meeting.

2. Ascertainment of the countries present and the quorum

There are 15 delegates of member countries present and 4 countries represented by proxy. With 19 voting rights from totally 28 the council has a quorum.

3. Acceptance of the minutes of the Council Meeting of 19-08-2003 in Bozeman, USA

The minutes are accepted unanimously.

4. Deliberations of the sub-committees

4.1 *Budget and Membership (Emanuel Germann)*

E. Germann comments a few aspects of the account 2003 and proposes to accept it. He informs that Bulgaria, Romania and Spain haven't paid their membership fees in spite of several reminding letters. They haven't shown any interest towards the WSFF during the last years. Due to this situation the sub-committee proposes to downgrade the three countries to the status of observation countries.

4.2 *Breed Publicity and Promotion (Josef Kucera)*

1. *Welcome and ascertainment of those present*

Josef Kucera welcomes the members and other representatives.

Present members: Robert Haralson, Richard Pichler and Imre Füller

Excused: Peter Massmann, Peter Speers, Vicente Galván and Alan Fraga

2. Acceptance of the minutes

The minutes of 19 August 2003 in Bozeman are accepted.

3. Members of the sub-committee

The two members Vicente Galvàn and John Thornhill resign from the sub-committee. They can be replaced by Brian Filby (UK) and Saul Tijerina Wolf (MX).

4. Reports of countries

A written country report is distributed to the members. Afterwards some representatives give short information about the present situation in their countries.

5. Contacting potential new members

There are different countries mentioned with close contacts concerning the Simmental-Fleckvieh breed: Russia, Ukraine, Finland and China.

Bruce Holmquist proposes to give arguments, why a country should be a member of WSFF.

6. Website (feedback, development, content management)

Kucera presents the new website. It has been setup using a content management system which allows to anybody in any countries to enter new information to the site. Several modules are restricted to the administrators. The present name *www.worldsimmentalfed.com* is considered to be too long and will be replaced by www.wsff.info. The development and maintenance of the site is in Czech Republic. Up to date there were a lot of positive feedbacks and in the first half year there have been about 4500 hits to the new website.

7. Booklet

In collaboration with the development of the new website there has been created and printed a promotion booklet in Czech Republic. 4000 pieces have been printed, 1500 have been transported to Denmark to distribute to the members.

8. Promotion material

Last year several members wished to create a promotion article for women. The former silk scarf is about sold out. A new design to produce a new scarf has been developed and is presented by Kucera to be discussed. As a conclusion we can state that the logo is unsuitable to be used for promotion articles as clothes.

9. Description of the breed of 1993

The breed standards are dating from 1993 and should be updated. Due to the multifarious breeding aims in the different member countries it is difficult to define breed standards which fit to all the Simmental and Fleckvieh populations worldwide. A potential solution could consist in a description of the original Simmental with annexes of breed descriptions in the different countries or parts of the world. The WSFF should pursue this idea.

10. Strategies for international marketing

In the international marketing the internet is the most important medium. It has to be upgraded regularly. For the marketing it is unfavourable to have a diversity of different names for the Simmental breed. It is desirable to find an appropriate solution for that. For Fleckvieh it is important to point at the excellent ability in dual purpose breeding. A report from Professor Kräusslich (Bavaria) should be translated into English to be published on internet.

11. Breed advantages of Simmental compared to Holstein for milk production

WSFF should focus on the excellences of the Simmental breed instead of using the deficiencies of other breeds.

12. Any other business:

The logo is not well adapted for some purposes. The font size is very small.

4.3 Technical (Georg Röhrmoser)

1. Welcome and ascertainment of those present

Georg Röhrmoser opens the meeting and invites everybody to an active participation in the meeting. Present members: Emanuel Germann and Bruce Holmquist
Excused: Peter Massmann, Jozsef Stefler, Peter Speers, Hervé Vignon and Saul Tijerina Wolf

2. Acceptance of the minutes

The minutes are accepted.

3. Members

Emanuel Germann is resigning as member and he proposes to be replaced by Richard Pichler from Austria. Sara Roberts would be ready to be an additional member of the sub-committee.

4. ICAR Guidelines for Beef Recording (speech by Dr. Hans Jürgen Schild, LK- Bavaria)

The ICAR Guidelines have been expanded by a widespread part concerning Beef recording. A team of 17 authors from different countries have been working on this act. The guidelines contain topics as data recording, data collection, trait definitions and testing schemes. A draft version is directly distributed in the meeting. The complete official version of the guidelines can be downloaded from www.icar.org. It is written just in English.

5. Reports of countries concerning Simmental x Holstein

Röhrmoser gives an introduction and mentions the reasons for crossbreeding Holstein cows with Fleckvieh bulls. Afterwards there are several statements with examples of crossbreeding in different countries. It is not a large number of crossbred animals registered yet, but it seems to be increasing. Soon there will be the first lactating cows in several countries and it will be interesting to compare the productivity of these cows compared to purebred cows.

6. Lactation curves of Fleckvieh

Röhrmoser informs about the economic trait of lactation persistency (run of lactation curve). This criterion is important in milk and beef production systems. For Fleckvieh in Germany and Austria they introduced a method to calculate breeding values for this trait, which will also be taken in consideration of the selection.

Steen Grunnet agrees with Röhrmoser, but in the beef production it is not possible to measure the lactation curves.

7. Monitoring of malformations and hereditary defects

Röhrmoser provides information about a new monitoring system in Bavaria with the administration of the data in a central database. Bulls with a surpassing frequency will be eliminated in the selection process. Haralson: In USA they ran an efficient system for about 35 years. Breeders have to announce malformations and the calves are collected and analysed. Kucera: in Czech Republic the veterinaries have to be contacted and they analyse the cases. Pichler asks if low frequencies of malformations and hereditary defects might be used as argument in the breed promotion.

8. Rules for registration of cattle in member countries

It is suggested to collect the different rules of registration in the herd-books of the member countries and to publish them in a compendium. The compendium should be ready to be distributed in Canada 2006.

9. Any other business

No more requests to speak.

4.4 Beef production (Robert Haralson as proxy for Peter Speers)

1. Welcome and ascertainment of those present

Present members: Steen Grunnet, Robert Haralson, Bruce Holmquist and Georg Röhrmoser

Excused: Claes Herman Annersfors, Alan Fraga, Peter Massmann, Alice Mullen, Eduardo Rosenberg and Peter Speers

2. Acceptance of the minutes

The minutes are accepted.

3. Members

Claes Herman Annersfors (SE) is resigning and will be replaced by Brian Filby (UK).

4. Beef research projects

Sara Roberts hands out a project profile about the lifetime study which has been financially supported by the WSFF. The project dates from 2002 to 2004. The objectives are to investigate the effects of home grown forage feeding systems on lifetime performance, production costs and carcass characteristics. They are using 162 home reared Simmental X Holstein beef cattle. The project is about to be completed and the final report will follow soon.

Holmquist briefs about a Canadian project concerning the Net Feed Efficiency (NFE) in Beef cattle on the way. They are using different British and Continental breeds. 36 Simmental bulls are included in the test. The interesting results show that there is a considerable variation within the breeds and especially within Simmental. A selection for NFE could lower maintenance requirements by 10% and improve the feed conversion ratio by 9 – 15%. The details are published at www.agric.gov.ab.ca under Livestock, Beef, Feeding and Commercialization of Net Feed Efficiency.

The Gen-Marker-Project for Beef tenderness in the USA has started and we hope to get first results next year in Mexico.

5. Reports of countries about linear scoring in beef breeding

There is not much new information about this topic. The system of linear scoring has been established in most breeding organisations worldwide. But the definition of the linear traits and the interpretation of the score differ from one organisation to the other. Efforts to harmonise the systems are most desirable but it will be difficult to achieve a complete harmonisation.

6. Any other business

No more requests to speak.

5. Elections: Members of sub-committees

The following mutations have been proposed by the sub-committees and accepted by the council.

Sub-committee	New	Resigned
Finances & membership	Benz Brand (CH) Hugo Valentin (IT, chair)	Emanuel Germann (CH)
Breed promotion & publicity	Brian Filby (UK) Saul Tijerina (MX)	John Thornhill (UK) Vicente Galván (MX)
Technical	Richard Pichler (AT) Sara Roberts (UK, new)	Emanuel Germann (CH)
Beef production	Brian Filby (UK)	Claes Herman Annersfors

In the discussion about the elections of the president and vice-presidents Franz Stürzer is nominated as candidate for president. Robert Haralson communicates that he won't run against him and he is ready to hand over the presidency. Proposals for vice-president are Peter Speers (hitherto), Josef Kucera and Bruce Holmquist. Holmquist is not ready to run for the election. The council decides to propose the two candidates Kucera and Speers for the election of the two vice-presidents.

6. Information about the next council meeting and congress

R. Haralson is reading a letter from Saúl Emerson Tijerina Wolf on behalf of the Mexican Simmental Simbrah association. He apologizes for not participating in the congress in Denmark. He invites the WSFF to have the Council Meeting 2005 from 6th to 15th October in Guadalajara. There will be the opportunity to visit the International Simmental - Simbrah Show.

The information about the Congress 2006 in Canada will be during the member's meeting.

J. Kucera announces that Czech Republic invites the WSFF to the Council Meeting 2007.

UK extends an invitation to the WSFF Congress 2008.
Australia confirms their invitation to the Congress 2010.

The president thanks to the inviting countries and the council accepts these invitations.

7. Any other business

There are no more requests to speak and the president Haralson closes the Council Meeting 2004.

For the minutes:

Andreas Bigler, Secretary General