



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

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2003, 9.00 a.m. – 11.45 a.m., Bozeman, USA

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### Present delegates:

Annersfors Claes Herman	SE
Füller Imre	HU
Galván Vicente	MX
Grunnet Steen,	DK
Haralson Robert	US (President)
Holmquist Bruce	CA
Kucera Josef	CZ
Mullen Alice	EI
Pichler Richard	AT
Speers Peter	AU (Vice-president)
Stürzer Franz	DE (Vice-president)

### Additional presents

Cowcher Charles	AU
Hanning Gerry	AU
McCarthy Brian	CA
Pepper Alan	UK
Philips Michael	US
Pumberger Rudolf	AT
Röhrmoser Georg	DE
Schuetze Fred	US
Stefler Jozsef	HU
Tijerina Wolf Saul Emerson	MX
Toth Roza	HU
Vetyska Jaroslav	CZ
Wenn Peter	AU
Bigler Andreas	CH, secretary general
Thöni Christina	CH, secretary general

## Agenda

1. Greeting and opening of the meeting
  2. Ascertainment of the countries present and the quorum
  3. Acceptance of the minutes of the Council Meeting of August 19 and 23, 2002, South Africa
  4. Deliberations of the sub-committees
    - „*Budget and Membership*“,
      - Acceptance of the account 2002
      - Member countries (new countries, observer countries) chairman Emanuel Germann (represented by G. Röhrmoser)
    - „*Breed Publicity and Promotion*“, chairman Richard Pichler
    - „*Technical*“, chairman Georg Röhrmoser
    - „*Beef production*“, chairman Peter Speers
    - „*Simbrah*“, chairman Peter Massmann (represented by P. Speers)
  5. Elections: Members of sub-committees
  6. Information about the Congress 2004 and the Congress 2006
  7. Next Council Meeting
  8. Any other business
  9. Report about a project “Gene marker for Beef-Tenderness” (Dr. Lipsey, Cornell-University, USA))
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## 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

The delegates of 11 countries are present. There are 4 proxy votes for absent delegates.

### 3. Acceptance of the minutes of the Council Meeting of August 19 and 23 in Pretoria, SA

The minutes are accepted unanimously.

### 4. Deliberations of the sub-committees

#### 4.1 *Budget and Membership (Georg Röhrmoser replacing Emanuel Germann)*

##### 1. *Welcome and ascertainment of those present*

Present members: Georg Röhrmoser, Franz Stürzer, Peter Speers und Robert Haralson.  
Excused: Emanuel Germann, Roger Trewhella, Hugo Valentin

##### 2. *Acceptance of the minutes*

The minutes are accepted unanimously.

##### 3. *Members of the sub-committee*

Roger Trewhella left the British Simmental Society and is not delegate of UK any more. Trewhella was member of different sub-committees of the WSFF and we appreciate his valuable cooperation. Vicente Galván (Mexico) is suggested to replace him.

The account of 2002 is distributed and is accepted unanimously.

The budget 2004 is distributed and is accepted unanimously.

Röhrmoser informs about the dropping interest returns on the capital in Switzerland. Bigler checked possibilities for a better investment. Suggestion: Move CHF 50'000.– into a stock

account with a current interest rate of 2.5%. In addition he will check possibilities to invest in a neighbour country.

There are a few countries in delay paying their membership fees. Namely Bulgaria, Spain and Romania. Those member countries will get a special letter and are demanded to pay immediately. Otherwise they will be reset to the status of observation countries. Bulgaria will be offered to pay a reduced membership fee because of economical difficulties.

Information about the expenses of the fund for beef projects: So far only two projects have got a financial support out of this fund (UK and SA in 2001). There was a new request by the American Simmental Association in 2002. It has been approved and accepted by the chairmen of the concerning sub-committees. After this there are still CHF 11'000.– left in the fund. We expect to get the final results of the supported projects.

## **4.2 Breed Publicity and Promotion (Richard Pichler)**

### *1. Welcome and ascertainment of those present*

Richard Pichler welcomes the members and is chairing this session.

Present members: Robert Haralson, Peter Speers, Josef Kucera, Vicente Galvàn, Imre Füller

Excused: Peter Massmann.

### *2. Acceptance of the minutes*

Minutes of August 19 in Pretoria

Point 4.2, 1.: Fraga is delegate from Brasil instead of Uruguay.

In 4.2, 3.: The total number of Fleckvieh cattle in Germany is 4 Mio. (not the number of Fleckvieh cows)

### *3. Members of the sub-committee*

The following persons are suggested to be new members:

Josef Kucera (Czech Republic) replacing Richard Ruznak (Slovakia),

Vicente Galvàn (Mexico) replacing Federico Leiva (Uruguay),

Imre Füller (Hungary) as additional member.

Richard Pichler announced that he would like to resign as chairman of this sub-committee for healthy reasons. He proposed Josef Kucera as the new chairman. Peter Speers thanks Pichler for his efforts in favour of the WSFF. Kucera says that it would be a pleasure for him to be chairman for this sub-committee.

### *4. Reports of countries:*

Richard Pichler informs about activities in several European countries. Especially in Russia and Ukraine there are large stocks of cattle and Fleckvieh is an important portion. Austria cultivates intensive contacts with the eastern European breeding organisations.

At the next meeting a table with the current number of the breed stock in the member countries will be presented.

### *5. Breed standards:*

The current breed standards for Simmental dates from 1993. It needs to be updated. Proposals are collected by the secretary general until the end of the year. A new version will be discussed at the next meeting in Denmark.

### *6. Flyer:*

At the congress in Denmark a new promotion flyer will be distributed. It should show the different qualities of the breed for milk production, beef production and as suckler cows. The addresses of all member countries are printed on the flyer. It should be in 3 different languages as English, German and Spanish. The design should be similar to the website.

### *7. Website:*

There are several suggestions by Peter Massmann and Peter Speers to be discussed. Josef Kucera presents his own ideas and he has already prepared a concrete example for the design. He has contacted partner and presents an offer to develop the new website for € 3000.–. The proposals found a large agreement. The project should be realized soon. Objective: the new website should be online by the end of the year.

### *8. Promotional material:*

In the discussion there are different ideas for new promotion articles: paperweight, watch, cap, tie-pin, pin. There is a need for an article especially for women. For example a scarf. These ideas will be taken in consideration.

## **4.3 Technical (Georg Röhrmoser)**

### *1. Welcome and ascertainment of those present*

Present members: Georg Röhrmoser, Jozsef Stefler, Peter Speers  
Excused: Peter Massmann, Emanuel Germann und Roger Trehwella

### *2. Acceptance of the minutes*

The minutes of August 19 in Pretoria are accepted without any remarks.

### *3. Members*

Roger Trehwella has to be replaced. The proposal is Bruce Holmquist (Canada).

### *4. Reports of countries about the estimation of breeding values*

Objective: Harmonisation of the methods and results among the concerned countries.

Currently there are major differences between the evaluations often there are poor genetic links.

Georg Röhrmoser asks for information from different countries. In **Germany** the estimation of the beef traits is based on the bull calves of milking cows. There are only a few records from beef production herds. The index for meat is composed by 60% net gain, 20% meat portion and 20% classification of carcass. In **Austria** the evaluation is comparable to Germany. **Denmark** uses a test-station to prove about 40 bulls yearly. The animals come into the station at the age of 7 months. In **Australia** they are using the system „Breed-plan“. Currently about 17 single traits are estimated using a BLUP-Animal-Model. The influence of the breed is estimated as well and it is possible to get results for crossbred animals. They are also using a total merit index. There is a collaboration with New Zealand, USA and Canada. In the **US** and **Canada** it is comparable to Australia. Meat-quality traits are getting more important. In **Mexico** they are using a new BLUP-Animal-Model. They run a separate evaluation for Simbrah. Over 40'000 animals are currently used in the evaluation. The milk production traits are estimated by the same model as the Holstein breed. Speers gives information about **South Africa** in the name of Massmann. The evaluation is done by a model of the public institute. The breeders are interested in using the “Breed-plan” but they are not supported by the government. Speers suggests that the WSFF should promote the “Breed-plan”. Bigler remarks that the harmonisation of the methods in the beef recording is a task for ICAR (International Committee for Animal Recording). Speers agrees and informs that there is already a working group working on that.

(Supplement by the editor of the minutes:

Henner Simianer: Synthesis of the ICAR survey of beef recording guidelines; ICAR 2001, to be downloaded from Internet: [www.icar.org/wg\\_beef\\_rec.htm](http://www.icar.org/wg_beef_rec.htm) )

Röhrmoser summarizes that the WSFF should back up this ICAR working group and always keep in touch with the current results.

The discussion about a membership of WSFF in ICAR has been discussed in former times.

#### *5. Definition of purebred, breeding aims*

There exists still the international rule of maximum 12.5% unknown blood to declare an animal purebred. The parentage verification is mostly done by DNA-Type.

Schuetze (USA) complains about the different declaration of the breed composition on official herd-book documents. It's sometimes difficult to read and understand foreign breed certificates. A harmonisation in this point would help the breeders.

The breeding aims are different in every country and there is no need of a harmonisation.

### **4.4 Beef production (Peter Speers)**

#### *1. Welcome and ascertainment of those present*

Present members: Peter Speers, Steen Grunnet, Robert Haralson, Alice Mullen, Georg Röhrmoser

Excused: Peter Massmann und Roger Trehwella.

#### *2. Acceptance of the minutes*

The minutes of August 19 in Pretoria are accepted without any remarks.

#### *3. Members*

Roger Trehwella left the sub-committee. There is no replacement.

#### *4. Beef research projects*

Two projects have been financially supported by the WSFF fund (UK and SA) so far. Unfortunately we haven't got final reports with the results and no member of these countries are present.

Pichler mentions two projects in Austria leaded by Dr. Frickh. They would merit to be supported. He hands out a documentation with the opinion of Dr. Frickh about this subject.

A current project of the American Simmental Association will be presented by Dr. J. Lipsey after the regular council meeting. It is a gene marker project for beef tenderness at the Cornell University.

#### *5. Reports of countries*

Röhrmoser informs about results of the Gene Star Test for marbling in German Simmental. He compares them with results from US and Australia.

After this there was a discussion about how to use gene test results in the breeding programs.

The next topic is the linear scoring. The delegates inform each other about their currently used systems. Most of the countries are using a system of linear scoring. But it seems that there are major differences in the details of those systems. This topic should be discussed more detailed at the next meeting.

Holmquist mentions a project about feed intake, feed conversion and efficiency, running in Canada. This might be a topic to be discussed in the future.

Speers asks all members to currently forward information about interesting projects with Simmental in their countries to the WSFF.

#### *6. Marbling*

This topic has already been discussed in point 5.

#### *7. International estimation of breeding values for beef traits*

Pichler has information from Austria about the quality traits Shear Force and marbling. They found reasonable heritabilities for those two traits of 0.23 and 0.17.

It is a fact, that meat prices are currently not influenced by beef quality traits. There is only a quality payment for the carcass value. Under those conditions it is difficult to include the beef quality traits in a total merit index for beef breeding.

*8. Priority issues in research and promotion for beef production*

Develop a progeny test for marbling which can be used in breeding programs.

Support the Austrian projects about estimation of breeding values for Shear Force and Marbling.

*9. Any other business*

The projects of Dr. Frickh might be interesting to be presented in Denmark.

**4.5 Simbrah (Peter Speers replacing Peter Massmann)**

*1. Welcome and ascertainment of those present*

Present member of this sub-committee: Peter Speers, Robert Haralson, Vicente Galván  
Excused: Peter Massmann

*2. Acceptance of the minutes*

The minutes of August 19 in Pretoria are accepted without any remarks

*3. Members*

No proposals for new members.

*4. Performance test for Simbra*

This topic has been discussed already in the beef production sub-committee.

*5. Reports of member countries*

In **Australia** the stock of Simbrah has been increasing over the last years. Concerning population size Simmental is on 3<sup>rd</sup> position and Simbrah already on 5<sup>th</sup> of all beef breeds. Simbrah are held mainly in commercial herds thus only a relative small number of animals are registered in the herd-book. Similar trends are found in the southern states of **USA**. Also in **Mexico** the breed-stock of Simbrah is strongly increased. The combination Zebu x Simmental is very popular especially in the tropics. The positive development of the Simbrahs is also an effect of the successful promotion of European Simmental-Fleckvieh bulls for inseminations on the native zebus.

**5. Elections: Members of sub-committees**

Following the new elected members in the sub-committees:

<b>Sub-committee</b>	<b>elected</b>	<b>retired</b>
Finances & membership	Vicente Galván (MX)	Roger Trehwella (UK)
Breed promotion & publicity	Vicente Galván (MX) Joseph Kucera (CR) (chair) Imre Füller (HU)	Federico Leiva (UR) Richard Ruznak (SK)
Technical	Bruce Holmquist (CA)	Roger Trehwella (UK)

## **6. Information about the Congresses 2004 and 2006**

The 15th congress takes place June 21-29, 2004 in Denmark with a post-congress-tour June 30-July 3, 2004 in Sweden. Steen Grunnet gives a few explanations to the program and distributes a new flyer.

The 16th congress takes place July 05-09, 2006 in Calgary (Canada). It's followed by a tour until July 16. Alana Lunn is in charge of the organisation and can be contacted for further information.

## **7. Next Council Meeting**

Galván invites the WSFF to held the next council meeting in 2005 in Mexico. The best period would be in August / September in combination with the national show. Pichler reminds that there is the congress of the European Fleckvieh Federation in Austria (September 03-08, 2005). The two events have to be coordinated.

## **8. Any other business**

Peter Speers informs that David Emerson who has been delegate for Australia many years had passed away. The meeting is interrupted for a minute of silence to commemorate him.

## **9. Report by Dr. Jerry Lipsey (Executive Vice President, ASA)**

Dr. Lipsey gives a lecture with the title „Our Future is Meat Quality“. He knows excellently how to demonstrate the importance of the quality for beef. Tenderness is an important element for the taste of the meat. There are many well known factors influencing the meat tenderness. Particularly interesting are the remarkable differences within a breed. These differences have to been measured to be able to select for it. Selection could be done by using gene marker technology. This would be an opportunity for Simmental to become recognized as the “best beef” in the world. Lipsey wishes, the WSFF would focus on improving the beef quality for Simmental.

For the minutes:

Andreas Bigler, Secretary General