



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

Wednesday, 12th July 2006, 3.00 – 5.00 p.m.,
 Telus Convention Center, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

List of representatives

Country	Representative	Proxy to
Argentina		
Australia	Peter Speers	
Brazil		
Denmark	Erik Olsen	
Germany	Franz Stürzer	
France		
United Kingdom	Dan Evans	
Ireland		
Italy		Germany
Canada	Bruce Holmquist	
Croatia		Austria
Mexico	Saul Tijerina Wolf	
Namibia		South Africa
New Zealand	Gemma Carmichael	
Austria	Richard Pichler	
Sweden		
Switzerland	Benz Brand	
Serbia		Austria
Slovakia		Czech Republic
Slovenia	Daniel Skaza	
South Africa	Peter Massmann	
Czech Republic	Josef Kucera	
Hungary	Imre Fuller	
Uruguay		
USA	Fred Schuetze	
Total	14	5

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 11th October 2005 in Guadalajara, MX
 4. Deliberations of the sub-committees
 - „Budget and membership“
 - Acceptance of the account 2005 und budget 2007
Chairman Franz Stürzer for Hugo Valentin
 - „Breed publicity and promotion“, chairman Josef Kucera
 - „Technical“, chairman Georg Röhrmoser
 - „Beef production“, chairman Peter Speers
 - „Simbrah“, chairman Peter Massmann
 5. Elections: members of sub-committees
 6. Discussion about international activities of breeding organizations
 7. Other business
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Deliberations

1. Greeting and opening of the meeting

The president Franz Stürzer welcomes all the participants and opens the meeting.

2. Ascertainment of the countries present and the quorum

14 countries are represented by a delegate, 5 countries by proxy. With 19 out of 25 votes, the council can deliberate validly.

3. Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2005 in Guadalajara, Mexico

The minutes are accepted.

4. Deliberations of the sub-committees

4.1 Budget and membership (Franz Stürzer)

The closing of accounts 2005 is commented on. The accounts 2005 close with a profit of CHF 10'811.25. On 31st December 2005, the capital amounts to CHF 154'510.88. The budget for 2007 foresees a benefit of CHF 5'110.

Columbia has asked to become a member of the WSFF. For 2006 and 2007, a symbolic membership fee of CHF 100 is fixed for this country. This fee would also be valid for Costa Rica and Norway if these countries were interested to become members of the WSFF. During the next meeting, the membership fees in general are to be newly fixed.

4.2 Breed publicity and promotion (Josef Kucera) Wednesday, 12th July, 10 a.m.

1. Greeting and ascertainment of the members present

Josef Kucera welcomes the participants and opens the meeting.

All the persons present are invited to participate actively in the discussions.

Alan Fraga (Brazil) is the only elected member of the sub-committee who is absent.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of 10th October 2005

The minutes of 10th October 2005 in Guadalajara are accepted.

3. Country reports

Josef Kucera presents a table with the most recent figures per country. Unfortunately, all the countries have not furnished their figures. A difficulty is also that all the figures furnished are not comparable with each other. The form is to be simplified. The performances can only be compared with reservation because they have been realized under different conditions. That's why they are abandoned.

The country reports have been established and translated. Some of these reports have not yet arrived. They are sent to the members together with the minutes.

4. Recruitment of new members

Our website is an important instrument to recruit new members. Josef Kucera presents an analysis of the number of hits to www.wsff.info. 37% of the hits have been generated by a Internet search engine, 40% of the hits came from non-member countries. This evaluation furnishes new contact addresses and shows where there is an interest in our breed. The number of accesses is increasing, but there still lack interesting contributions from the member countries. It would be interesting to publish reports and pictures about member countries. Peter Speers suggests that the advantages of membership should be shown. Peter Massmann observes that the number of members is decreasing. A good website is important, but the contacts have to be entertained through personal letters. It must be an aim to raise again the number of members. Georg Röhrmoser points out that in some countries, it is difficult to find the right contact addresses because there are no more stable structures. Concretely, the organizations in Costa Rica and Norway should be contacted.

5. Breed description

During a lively discussion, opinions are exchanged. The marketing should make profit of the differences between the breeding aims of the different countries, showing the diversity and the adaptability of the breed. Georg Röhrmoser proposes to structure the breed description in 3 parts: 1. Origin of the breed and description of the original breed. 2. Description of the different breeding aims. 3. National descriptions with pictures.

This means that every member country can decide itself what the Simmental or Simbrah in their country have to look like. The WSFF is open and accepts all the individual breed standards of its member countries.

6. Information about the website

Josef Kucera has worked out a new header for the website representing Beef Simmental. Every user can now choose the header (dual purpose or beef).

4.3 Technical (Georg Röhrmoser) Monday, 10th October, 11 a.m.

1. Greeting and ascertainment of the members present

Georg Röhrmoser welcomes all the participants and invites everybody to participate actively in the meeting. Official members absent of the sub-committee: Jozsef Stefler, Hervé Vignon.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of 10th October 2005 in Guadalajara, MX

The minutes are accepted without any remarks.

3. Rules for registration in the member countries

Andreas Bigler shows what subjects have already been determined by means of an opinion poll 6 years ago. These questions should be updated. Furthermore, he presents aspects concerning the herd-book that could now also be consulted.

Georg Röhrmoser chairs the discussion on this subject. As an example, he presents the EU legislation which is valid for all the member countries. Bruce Holmquist distributes the herd-book rules in Canada as an example. Further examples have also been furnished by Australia and Austria.

Röhrmoser proposes to complete the old questionnaire with additional points and to send it afterwards to the members. Furthermore, the complete herd-book rules of all the countries can be combined within an appendix.

4.4 Beef production (Peter Speers) Wednesday, 12th July 1.15 p.m.

1. Greeting and ascertainment of the members present

Peter Speers welcomes all the participants and opens the meeting.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of 10th October 2005 in Guadalajara, MX

The minutes are accepted without any remarks.

3. Interbull evaluation for beef production traits

Andreas Bigler gives information about the current state of the Interbull project. A business plan has been set up and the financial needs are covered to 80%. Organizations in Ireland, France and United Kingdom will actively participate on a pilot study for the breeds Charolais and Limousin. Interbull still tries to find sponsors for the lacking amount of EUR 20'000 per year. Interbull would appreciate, if Simmental Organizations would give a financial support to this project.

The delegates have a positive tenor to the efforts done by Interbull for the beef production. But especially the organizations using Breedplan are against a financial support of the Interbull project at the moment. Breedplan is covering 17 different traits whereas the Interbull project just starts with 3 traits. The use of this evaluation would be limited.

The council is against a financial support of the Interbull project by the WSFF. It is recommended to watch the development of the project.

4. Beef research projects (running and new)

Currently there is only the gene marker project for beef tenderness in the USA left. We haven't got new projects asking for support.

Dan Evans regrets that there is no summery fort he UK project. We've received the complete report which is written in a scientifically form.

5. Linear scoring for Beef Simmental

Gemma Carmichael from New Zealand presented the system of linear scoring in NZ. After being absent the last few years, she gave a nice overview about the situation of beef breeding in New Zealand, especially for Simmental. She mentioned the traits docility which seems to be more and more important at bull sales. It is scored from 1 (docile) to 5 (aggressive).

Peter Massmann explained the attitude of South Africa in this matter. Each animal (Simmental and Simbrah) has to be accepted by an expert in order to get the status of a herd book animal. For Massmann it is very important to use a system that allows evaluating

the data in a BLUP model. It is important to classify also the animals that fulfill not all criteria of the herd-book.

Bruce Holmquist gives explanations about the Canadian System.

6. Any other business

Vicente Galvan presents results of the classification of beef carcass in Mexico. Comparing data of breeding animals with commercial animals they try to use the information to make breeding progress for carcass.

Georg Röhrmoser: In Germany and Austria there is no more test-station for beef production. The beef production breeding information is now based on data from the slaughter houses.

4.5 Simbrah (Peter Massmann)

The delegates accept to hold the sub-committee meeting direct in the council meeting because it is open to all the delegates anyway.

1. Greeting and ascertainment of the members present

Peter Massmann takes over the chair of this part of the meeting. He reviews the evolution of the Simbrah mentioning the decision of the WSFF in Hungary 1999 to accept Simbrah as independent breed. Simbrah is a synthetic breed but not crossbreeding! The breed composition is defined in each Simbrah country Australia, Brazil, Mexico, USA and South Africa individually. Simbrah is one of the most expanding breeds.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of 10th October 2005 in Guadalajara, MX

The minutes are accepted without any remarks.

3. Reports of countries about Simbrah

In South Africa there is a strong increase of the number of Simbrah. 2009 might be the first year with more Simbrah than Simmental. The range of Simmental blood content reaches from 25 to 75 % Simmental. For the acceptance as Simbrah it is important, that the animal shows the typical Simbrah type. Massmann illustrates with pictures important conformation qualities of Simbrahs as the rump, hock, pasterns, scrotum and prepuce (bulls only) and the quality of the hair. Polled or hornless is preferred.

Fred Schuetze makes a summary about Simbrah in the USA. The number of registrations stagnated over the last few years. But worldwide there are enormous numbers of Zebus which shows the expansion potential for Simbrah.

Saul Tijerina: In Mexico Simbrah development is very good. Currently the number of Simbrah is about the same as Simmental.

Peter Speers: In Australia the situation is comparable to South Africa. They are looking for a similar type as explained by Massmann. Simbrah is mainly used in commercial farms. That's why the number of registered bulls is relatively low. Although Simbrah is still expanding and on markets there are more and more Simbrahs with mostly high carcass quality.

4. Characteristics which require improvement in the Simbrah

The main breeding goals have been mentioned in the previous point of the agenda.

5. Any other business

Peter Massmann resumes that the expansion of Simbrah is also positive for the Simmental breed. Many qualities of the Simmental breed are shown also in the Simbrah. Simbrah has a great potential of expansion in all the regions worldwide with traditional Zebu breed stocks.

5. Elections: members of sub-committees

Ross Coben is proposed as a new member in the Beef production sub-committee. The proposal is accepted unanimously.

In the Simbrah sub-committee the delegates from all country with a Simbrah herd-book are welcome to participate.

6. Discussion about international activities of breeding organizations

Peter Massmann opens the discussion, because South-Africa has got a letter by the WSFF executive concerning this issue. SA has an open breeding organization which allows everybody to be a member. The herd-book is open to cattle of different breeds. This form of organization allows a certain competition. Massmann underlines that his organization offers their services to all breeders but they have never promoted to be a member in foreign countries. They will go on with this philosophy in the future.

Peter Speers explains his point of view that caused the above mentioned letter to SA. He is not against international collaboration. But on his opinion each animal should first be registered in the local herd-book, if this service is offered.

Georg Röhrmoser gives an overview about breeding legislates in the EU. The evolution goes more and more in direction of international collaboration and liberalization. WSFF has no possibilities to be against this evolution.

After a long discussion the following motion has been formulated and accepted by 11 to 1 votes.

Recommendation by the World Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation (WSFF) to its members:
"A WSFF member shall only admit an animal, born in another WSFF member country, if the animal has first been registered in the herd-book of the animal's country of birth, unless both affected countries mutually agreed."

7. Other business

Peter Speers lauds the fact that there has been organized a young breeder's forum in the context of this congress. He congratulates Canada for having initialized this event.

At 6.00 p.m., Franz Stürzer closes the meeting and thanks the participants for the good discussions.

For the minutes:



Andreas Bigler, Secretary General