



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

Tuesday, **11th October 2005**, 8.45 to 12.00 a.m., Crowne Plaza, Guadalajara, Mexico
Incl. the meetings of the sub-committees: Monday, 10th June 2005, 8.45 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

List of representatives

Country	Representative	Proxy to
Argentina	-	
Australia	Peter Speers	
Brazil	-	-
Denmark	-	
Germany	Franz Stürzer	
France	-	-
United Kingdom	Dan Evans	
Ireland	-	-
Italy	Hugo Valentin	
Canada	Bruce Holmquist	
Croatia	-	Austria
Mexico	Saul Tijerina	
Namibia	-	Austria
New Zealand	-	Australia
Austria	Richard Pichler	
Sweden	-	
Switzerland	Benz Brand	
Serbia	Vlastimir Jovanovic	
Slovakia	Alojz Kubek	
Slovenia	-	
South Africa	-	Germany
Czech Republic	Josef Kucera	
Hungary	Imre Füller	
Uruguay	-	-
USA	Fred Schuetze	
Total		13
		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 June 22, 2004 in Aarhus, DK
 4. Deliberations of the sub-committees
 - „*Budget and Membership*“, chairman Hugo Valentin
 - Acceptance of the account 2004 and budget 2006
 - „*Breed Publicity and Promotion*“, chairman Josef Kucera
 - „*Technical*“, chairman Georg Röhrmoser
 - „*Beef production*“, chairman Peter Speers
 - „*Simbrah*“, chairman Peter Massmann (by proxy of Fred Schuetze, USA)
 5. Elections: Members of sub-committees
 6. Information about the Congresses 2006 (Canada) and 2008 (UK)
 7. The next Council meeting 2007 (Czech Republic)
 8. 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.

Saül Tijerina welcomes all the delegates and presents the Mexican Simmental and Simbrah breeding by means of a series of beautiful pictures.

2. Ascertainment of the countries present and the quorum

13 countries are represented by a delegate, 4 of which have transferred their right to vote to an other country. With 17 out of 25 votes, the council can deliberate validly.

3. Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on June 22, 2004 in Aarhus, DK

The minutes are accepted.

4. Deliberations of the sub-committees

4.1 *Budget and membership (Hugo Valentin)*

The closing of accounts 2004 is commented on by Hugo Valentin. The accounts 2004 close with a profit of CHF 4'561.80. On 31st December 2004, the capital amounts to CHF 143'699.60. In the budget for 2006, an additional amount of CHF 3'000 is approved on to support the participants in the young breeders' forum in Canada. The proposal to remunerate Josef Kucera, Czech Republic, for his work for the website with CHF 2'000 is approved on. This amount is deducted from the flat-rate amount for personnel expenses.

4.2 Breed publicity and promotion (Josef Kucera) Monday, 10th October, 9.40 a.m.

1. Greeting and ascertainment of the members present

Josef Kucera welcomes the participants and opens the meeting.

Members present: Richard Pichler, Imre Füller, Fred Schuetze, Peter Speers, Saul Tijerina
Excused: Peter Massmann, Alan Fraga, Brian Filby

Fred Schuetze, USA, is proposed as a new member, to replace Robert Haralson.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of 21st June 2004

The minutes of 21st June 2004 in Aarhus are accepted.

3. Reports of the countries

A written report of the countries will be handed out during the congress in Canada in 2006. If possible, this report should also include non-member countries. Vicente Galván, Georg Röhrmoser and Hugo Valentin offer their support. They all have good contacts to potential new member countries.

Different countries point out coming national exhibitions. The dates are published in the calendar of events on www.wsff.info.

Richard Pichler draws the participants' attention to the new website of the European Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation (EVF): www.evf-esf.info. It was designed in close co-operation with our website. For the moment, the website only exists in German.

Bruce Holmquist informs about the planned young breeders' forum in the frame of the congress in Calgary in 2006. He distributes the programme. It includes common parts with our congress, but also some separate parts. The event finds vast support. Dan Evans announces that a programme for young breeders is also planned for the congress in United Kingdom in 2008. Richard Pichler wishes that the young breeders be as much integrated into the programme of the congress as possible. Bruce Holmquist says the costs for the young breeders are deliberately maintained on a low level, but financial support by the WSFF is nevertheless desirable. The sub-committee decides to support the forums in Canada and in the UK with CHF 3'000 each. This amount allows supporting the participants making an application for support.

4. Contacting potential new members

The mentioned contacts with non-member countries should be deepened. Mexico has good connections with Central and South America. Richard Pichler knows the breeding organisations in Central and Eastern Europe very well and there are several countries that know a lot about China.

Peter Speers proposes to establish a document that shows the advantages of the WSFF membership.

5. Website

Josef Kucera presents the statistics of hits on our website and ascertains a high increase. He appeals to all the participants to use the website actively and to publish their own contributions. The administration of the website is made in common with the EVF website. It is possible to update the two websites at the same time. The calendar of events can be completed any time. Peter Speers wishes a concentration on the important parts according to the statistics of hits and more contributions to be downloaded as PDF. Saul Tijerina would like e-mails to be sent whenever new contributions are put onto the website. Richard Pichler wishes more top pictures on the website.

6. Promotional material

Last year, ties and miniature radios have mainly been sold. The articles were in most cases sold to persons in Switzerland or its neighbour countries. Forwarding expenses increase constantly and forwarding the articles needs more and more work. The following ideas for

new articles are contributed by members of the sub-committee: button, badge with name and logo for the country representatives, new tie made of finer material and with a new design.

7. Breed description

Peter Speers presents a proposal how the breed description could be restructured. The main points would be: origin, breeding strains, features, description and utilisation. He proposes a subdivision according to the type of production: milk strain, dual purpose strain, beef strain. Andreas Bigler adds another version of how the different strains can be united under one roof "Simmental-Fleckvieh breeds". It follows from the discussion that one should go on working with these proposals. The differences between the breeding purposes in the different countries shall be profited of on the level of marketing in order to show the diversity and adaptability of the breed. Richard Pichler emphasizes once more that the aim of the breed description is marketing.

8. Other business

Saul Tijerina reports on an exhibition in Colombia that lasted several days and where the Mexican Simmental & Simbra Federation had an information stand.

4.3 Technical (Georg Röhrmoser)

Monday, 10th October, 2.10 p.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 present of the sub-committee: Richard Pichler, Peter Speers, Saul Tijerina, Bruce Holmquist and Dan Evans
Excused: Peter Massmann, Jozsef Stefler, Hervé Vignon

Proposed as new members: Dan Evans to replace Sara Roberts (Great Britain) and Benz Brand (Switzerland) as an additional member.

2. Acceptation of the minutes of 21st June 2004 in Aarhus

The minutes are accepted without any remarks.

3. Rules for registration of cattle in the member countries

Georg Röhrmoser reminds of the decision of the year before according to which a compendium containing the most important rules for registration in the different herd-books shall be distributed during the congress in Canada in 2006. This instrument shall encourage the comprehension for the different documents and figures.

Peter Speers would also like to clarify the determination and declaration of genetic polledness. This point should also be described in the compendium mentioned above.

4. Any other business

Richard Pichler points out interesting lectures that have been presented in the frame of the congress of the European Simmental Federation in Austria. They have also been published on the Internet.

4.4 Beef production (Peter Speers)

Monday, 10th October, 3 p.m.

1. Greeting and ascertainment of the members present

Peter Speers welcomes the members of the sub-committee: Fred Schuetze (replacing Robert Haralson), Bruce Holmquist, Georg Röhrmoser, Dan Evans (replacing Brian Filby)
Excused: Alan Fraga, Peter Massmann, Alice Mullen, Eduardo Rosenberg, Steen Grunnet

2. Acceptation of the minutes of 21st June 2004 in Aarhus

The minutes are accepted without any remarks.

3. International Evaluation for beef breeds

Peter Speers presents his ideas concerning this subject in the frame of a detailed lecture. He ascertains that the countries with beef breeds present above all the need of genetic exchange. Today it is difficult to interpret and to compare the results of the progeny testing of different countries. The main problems are: different trait definitions, different evaluation systems and deficient genetic linkages. He proposes as short term solutions that the countries should inform better on their methods and evaluations and progeny testing of other countries high accuracy genetics. In the long run, he wishes joint evaluations or at least the application of the same evaluation systems. The possibility of an Interbull evaluation for important beef traits would also bring an improvement. A common animal search on the Internet is a further aim he would like to reach. A better procedure for the transfer of animal data could facilitate the exchange and thus encourage the trade in animals.

Georg Röhrmoser informs about the first tests made by Interbull with Charolais and Limousin breeds. Fred Schuetze reports on a USDA project for a joint evaluation for all beef breeds in the USA. The Angus breed no longer takes part in the project. As crossbreeding is very important for beef, it is important that the breeders can compare not only between countries, but also between breeds.

Parts of Europe go on aiming for joint evaluations.

4. Beef Research projects

The project in UK has been finished. Dan Evans is trying to get an appropriate summary of the results that could be published on the Internet.

The gene marker project for beef tenderness in the USA could be finished next year. There are no intermediate results at disposal yet.

Georg Röhrmoser ascertains that the demand of the gene-star-test is stagnating or declining. The tests take quite a lot of time and work and one of the two markers is nearly homozygous. The second marker is not very efficient. Bruce Holmquist adds that in Canada, the information is at disposal but not yet used in practice.

5. Promotion of beef attributes of Simmental

Fred Schuetze thinks that the use of the Simmental breed in different environments is interesting for beef breeding and should be used as a marketing argument.

Dan Evans regrets that the well known label programmes are mainly focused on the sire's breed. The Simmental breed's strong points lie above all in the use as mother cows.

Saul Tijerina wishes a better exchange of information articles from the beef sector, for example about the different marker tests.

Georg Röhrmoser mentions a lecture given by Josef Kucera during the ICAR congress in Uppsala. Such lectures are also very precious promotion of our breed.

6. Any other business

Richard Pichler would like to know to what extent the linear scoring for Simmental beef cattle has been harmonised between the countries. Bruce Holmquist would like to present the Canadian system in Canada and proposes to deal with this subject during the next meeting.

4.5 Simbrah (Fred Schuetze for Peter Massmann) Monday, 10th October, 4.40 p.m.

1. Greeting and ascertainment of the members present

Fred Schuetze takes part in the meeting of this sub-committee instead of Robert Haralson and opens the meeting for Peter Massmann who excused himself. Official members present: Peter Speers and Vicente Galván.

Excused: Alan Fraga, Peter Massmann

The meeting, however, is open and most of the council members participate in it.

2. Acceptation of the minutes of 19th August 2003 in Bozeman, USA

The minutes are accepted without any remarks.

3. Members of the sub-committee

No changes are proposed. The meeting is open for everybody.

4. Country reports concerning Simbrah

In Mexico, the Simbrah is increasing. This has to do with the extreme climatic conditions (semi-deserts and subtropical regions) where the breeders have traditionally worked with Zebu. The Simbrah is superior to the Zebu on the level of performances, but a Zebu percentage is necessary for grazing farms in such regions.

In Australia, there are regions in the north where Brahman and Brahman crosses are above all held. There are large herds of pure Simbrah in this area. But the number of breeders registering their cattle is quite low and the part of registered animals is not very high.

In the USA, there was a period of slight regression, but now, increases are again registered. For commercialisation, it is important that the Brahman percentage does not exceed 25%. The Simbrah still realise good economic results so that the demand of purebred Simmental for cross breeding remains high.

5. Recognition of Simbrah in herd-books

The blood percentages are not regulated in the same way in all the countries. The Simmental percentage must be between 1/4 and 5/8 (Mexico) or 6/8 in the USA and Australia. In the USA, a third breed is also allowed. A written compendium will be established in Canada.

6. Performance testing for Simbrah

In Mexico, there is a comparable performance testing as for Simmental. Additionally, estimated heterosis effects are considered. In the USA, many Simbrah are not registered and are therefore not tested.

5. Elections: members of sub-committees

The following changes are proposed by the sub-committees and accepted by the council:

Sub-committee	newly elected	replacing
Budget and membership	Fred Schuetze (USA)	Robert Haralson (USA)
Breed publicity and promotion	Fred Schuetze	Robert Haralson
Technical	Benz Brand (CH), Dan Evans (UK)	Brian Filby (UK)
Beef production	Dan Evans Fred Schuetze	Brian Filby Robert Haralson
Simbrah	Fred Schuetze	Robert Haralson

6. Information about the congresses 2006 (Canada) and 2008 (UK)

Alana Lunn and Bruce Holmquist show the beautiful advertising films concerning the congress in Canada in 2006 and inform about the exact dates. The meetings of the sub-committees take place already on 12th July, which means that the delegates must arrive at Calgary on 11th July. They also report on the interesting programmes of the pre- and post-congress excursions as well as on the young breeders' forum. They already distribute registration forms. The relatively high congress taxes mainly result from the high hotel costs in this season of the year.

Dan Evans informs about a provisional programme for the congress in Great Britain in 2008. The congress is planned to take place in Edinburgh (Scotland), after the Royal Highland Show. The post-congress tour leads through England to the South where the Royal Agriculture Show will take place 11 days later. The entire programme will thus last from 18th June to 3rd July 2008. During the discussion, the wish is expressed that it must be possible to participate only in a part of the programme. For the young breeders, a shorter programme is planned in connection with the Simmental show.

7. The next council meeting 2007 (Czech Republic)

Roman Sustacek and Josef Kucera inform about the next council meeting. It will take place in the Czech Republic at the end of May or beginning of June 2007. Some highlights of the planned frame programme are presented. The programme is planned to last 5 days.

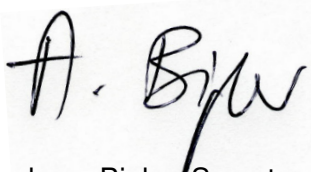
8. Other business

Fred Schuetze wishes that the capital be better invested.

Richard Pichler says that constant efforts are needed to promote the Simmental-Fleckvieh breed and to recruit new countries as members of the WSFF.

On behalf of the WSFF, the president, Franz Stürzer, and the Secretary General thank the representatives of the Mexican Simmental and Simbrah Federation for their generous hospitality and the excellent organisation of this council meeting.

For the minutes:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Bigler', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Andreas Bigler, Secretary General