



Breed Development and Conservation Chairman's Report 24th November 2009



The first meeting of this committee was held on Tuesday 24th November 2009 at the Charolais Cattle Society building.

Present: G Kiddy (Chair), S Booth, T Bretherton, A Gready, R Lutwyche, J Millard, D Norman, R Overend, S Richardson, A Robinson, A Rose, C Vaughan, J Wreakes, F Slade (Honorary Vice President) and M Bates (Secretary). Apologies were received from: C Coe, S Loveless.

Andrew Robinson was appointed as Deputy Chair of the committee; his knowledge of herd books will be invaluable to the deliberations of this committee. Tracey Bretherton and John Millard were appointed as Council deputies.

It was agreed that Rex Walters would be co-opted onto the committee to provide genetic advice and it is hoped he will come to the next meeting to talk about genetic analysis & BLUP. It was also agreed to speak to Andrew Walton to see if his expertise could assist the committee.

The objectives of the committee were agreed as follows Herdbook publication – The committee agreed that hardback volumes of the herdbook should continue to be published. An editing sub committee, comprising Andrew Robinson, Richard Lutwyche, Guy Kiddy, Stephen Booth and Steve Richardson, was established to oversee the annual publication of the Herdbooks and to try & complete some of the missing years herdbooks. Genetic Analysis

The committee agreed that the Geneped software should be used to identify genetically unique pigs for both in-situ and ex situ conservation programmes. The committee also proposed developing a method to monitor inbreeding that could be used by members for sire selection.

Estimated Breeding Values – This was felt to be important especially to the modern breeds to help in the selling of breeding stock both at home and abroad.

DNA testing – The committee agreed that parentage testing for pedigree litters should be the priority for this programme but that it was a lower priority than other aspects of the committees work.

Breed Surveys – The committee discussed the proposed schedule for the 2009 survey and agreed a January start date. It was agreed to exclude birth notified pigs from the survey to make it simpler to complete

Heritage Semen Bank – Semen from an Oxford Sandy & Black boar is shortly to be added to the bank. A working group has been set up to draw up a list of boars to be added to the semen bank and to look at the possibility of sponsorship. Steve Richardson agreed to lead on this with help from Robert Overend and Alan Rose.

Guy Kiddy proposed tapping into training funds to develop workshops for pedigree breeding as an important part of conservation was to select better animals as the parents of the next generation. He agreed to draw up a training proposal to be submitted for 50% grant funding. Two courses have now been accepted for funding by Landskills East