Linear scoring at weaning in beef cattle in France
Supervision and management

P. Berrechet
Linear scoring at weaning in France

- An elementary data of the French beef performance recording system
- Recorded for 35 years
- 330,000 calves scored every year

- About 200 specialised technicians trained and supervised
  - From local organisation of beef performance recording (80%)
  - From breed societies (20%)
  - Several scorers work on more than one breed
History

- Beginning at the early 70’s

- Building the table for muscular development to maximize the correlation with Carcass Grade (EUROP scale)

- Traits with good heritabilities if the scorer are trained
  - Around 0.3 to 0.4
Validation

- Genetic Correlations
  - Around 0.7
    - between linear scoring at weaning on farm and Carcass Grade for young bulls (10-15 studies)
  - 0.8 to 0.9
    - between linear scoring and Carcass Grade for young bulls in ProgT station (Renand 1986, Fouilloux, 2000)
  - 0.3 to 0.6
    - between linear scoring and Dressing percentage for young bulls in ProgT station (Fouilloux, 2000)
Calves born in 2006: 340,000 linear scoring at weaning.
Description of scoring system

- 19 anatomical traits
- Linear description scored from 1 to 10
- An across breeds scale
  - To include the crossbreed calves, to discriminate the breeds on phenotype
- 3 global scores
  - Muscular development
  - Skeletal development
  - Functional abilities
- Described with details in a book of reference
Description of scoring system

Muscular development

- Hindquarter width
- Loin thickness
- Curve of rump
- Width at withers
- Width behind withers
Description of scoring system

Skeletal development

- Wither-hooks length
- Hooks-pins length
- Cannon bone circumference
- Stature
- Width within hooks
Description of scoring system

Functional abilities

- Muzzle Width
- Forelegs
- Rearlegs
- Top line
Description of scoring system

Complementary traits

Body depth
Hindquarter depth
Trochanters width
Chest width
Since 1995 an initial training course is organised by Institut de l'Élevage

- A 5 days course with a lot of practical exercises

- Each year: one exam per breed
  - if scorer succeed 3 years consecutively he is authorised to score for four or five years
  - measure of reliability, homogeneity, use of scale
## Organisation

### Session 349

### FREQUENCES DES NOTES PAR POSTE

#### POINTEUR:

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### HISTORIQUE

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### DECISION AGREMENT

- Agréé durée indéterminée
- Agréé un an
- Agréé avec réserve (1 an)
- Non agréé

### SYNTHÈSE

10,0

### OBSERVATIONS:

- [Institut de l'Oléagine - Département Général, Identification et Contrôle des Performances] comptes-rendu n°: 2094
Organisation

- Each year a national meeting is held at the beginning of the scoring campaign
  - review of general recommendations
  - discussions around several scoring
- Field supervision
  - since 1997, an annual description of the work of each scorer
  - number of scoring
  - activity per day
  - distribution of scores…
  - difference with means of population