

## **Vice-Président report WJCB (Europe)**

In Europe, as in the rest of the world, the COVID crisis we have been going through for several months will continue to affect our life for a long time. The economy shut down has caused a number of things to be thrown out. From our habits or customs, through our travels, or our consumption patterns. Difficult to predict what tomorrow will look like. Yet, the European dairy market has handled this major crisis relatively well.

However, we feel the strong expectation of consumers to “consume locally” and to produce cleaner and with respect for “animal welfare”. We cannot ignore it in our vision of tomorrow’s practices.

### ***Carbon impact of the dairy production***

At the last EJF in Czech Republic last year, each country was able to present its selection goals for the coming years. Increasing milk production, while continuing to improve milk components, is the course of action that will allow us to demonstrate the Jersey advance tomorrow. Carbon footprint of dairy farming goes through the control of animal feeding, but also by the whole system efficiency. Mastering reproduction parameters and number of unproductive days, gives Jersey a head start.

### ***Feed efficiency index***

Since several months now, Nordic evaluation system went even further by prioritizing animals according to their potential to transform feed into milk. This new tool gives a new vision that makes animals out of format less desirable for example.

### ***Jersey Bull Calves***

Several growth trials are underway on both pure-bred male calves and crossbred calves with different beef breeds. Each country faces this problem. Whether it is to comply with legislation or to control the number of heifers (use of sexed semen) to adapt to the heifer market, bull calf is today a brake for the breed development. And everyone must work to bring solutions.

### ***A2 milk***

With a high percentage of A2A2 animals in the population, Jersey has a good advantage to other breeds on this market. Selection in this trait is also accelerating. However, dairy industry seems to be dragging its heel in committing to pay for it and promoting it.

### ***Polled line***

The selection is also increasing on this topic with a careful identification of polled lines in Europe, but also on other continents. Everything suggests that the level of carrier bulls will increase very quickly. This is a major issue, because of the growing pressure on animal welfare.

Finally, for the last two years, we have been warning about the new European Zootechnical Regulation, which allows free movement of genetics. If other breeds already knew this situation, Italy is today with two breed society for the Jersey breed. In countries where the numbers are small, division is necessarily detrimental. However, a number of Jersey breeders, not finding themselves in the ideas of the first association, came together to create a new one. Tomorrow, will there be one or two herdbook? The WJCB will probably have to position itself in the future on which organization will be recognized tomorrow.

The meeting of the European Forum could not be held this year because of the COVID situation. We now hope to turn this page as soon as possible. We will now meet in September 2021. A programme will be proposed very soon for the EJF, but also for the annual meeting of the WJCB. The programme will revolve around the French Jersey national show at SPACE in Rennes and a visit to Jersey Island.

Take care,

Benoit Guioullier

Vice Président, (Europe)