



PRESS RELEASE

Issue Date: Immediate

(Thursday 9th February 2023)

2023 European Holstein & Red Holstein conference - "Farming with Nature - Future Proof the Cow"

The IHFA has the distinct pleasure of hosting the 2023 European Holstein & Red Holstein conference taking place from the 26th to 29th of April 2023 in the Castleknock Hotel, Dublin. IHFA launched the conference at the IHFA All Ireland Awards at the Killeslin Hotel, Portlaoise on the 25th of January.

As the premier Holstein herdbook event in Europe, the conference will include the EHRC AGM and conference sessions focused on Holstein genetics for all systems, new trends & traits, digitalisation on farm and cows of the future. The conference activities include farm visits to the Monamore Herd of Tom Kelly and the UCD Lyons research herd, a gala ball, the Emerald Expo show and much more. This is a gathering not to be missed!

The conference is for farmers, industry experts and all Holstein enthusiasts and will have something for everyone whether they are coming from Castleisland or Cremona. To register for the 2023 conference please visit the IHFA Web site at: www.ihfa.ie/ehrc2023

Please note accommodation is to be booked separately, a range of options are also detailed on the website along with the conference schedule

We look forward to welcoming friends new and old to Dublin for an exciting few days discussing all things Holstein!

Some of our distinguished guests and speakers include Lars Nielsenm Chief Breeding and Production Officer at Viking Genetics, Dr. Finbar Mulligan UCD, Dr. Donagh Berry Teagasc and Dr. Siobhan Ring ICBF.

History of the EHRC

The EHRC was established in 1966 to improve, develop and promote the Holstein and Red Holstein breed by close co-operation of all officially recognised European Herdbooks. Prior to this European Herdbook Societies had no co-ordinated co-operation, each administering its herdbook according to its own rules. This led to very different breeding goals across the continent and difficulties in getting pedigree registrations recognised across member states.

The EHRC established the hugely successful European Show which has been postponed due to Covid. We look forward to being able to attend this great Conference in 2023 instead. The EHRC is hugely supportive of young breeders and published an extensive guide for young breeders on how to prepare, train and care for animals for showing.

The EHRC also operates European Judging conferences which form necessary training and appraisal for individuals wishing to join the prestigious European Holstein Judges Panel. The judges panel was formed to harmonise judging across Europe; standardising showing protocols, judges assessment and reason giving techniques. In Europe, Holstein judges are advised to consider four composite traits, namely Dairy Character (10%), Frame (25%), Feet & Legs (25%) and Mammary System (40%) in line with linear trait scoring that is carried out across the member states for classification of Holstein animals. In 2019 the European Holstein Judges Workshop was held in Ireland and we are very proud to have four Irish judges on the current panel; Paul Hannan, Garry Hurley, Victor Jackson and Gary Jones.

For further information on the history and ongoing work of the EHRC visit www.euholsteins.com

ENDS

Notes to the Editor:

The Irish Holstein Friesian Association (IHFA) is a member owned organisation directed by the IHFA board which is directly elected from its 3,700 members in 15 club areas. The association is licensed by the Department Of Agriculture to issue ancestry and pedigree registration certificates. The IHFA is responsible for the validity and upkeep of the herdbook of Holstein Friesian cattle and for giving direction to the development and promotion of the breed in Ireland through its many events and services. The association offers a grade-up service, whereby commercial dairy cows can be graded to full pedigree in three simple steps.

IHFA aims are to improve the breeding of pedigree Holstein Friesian cattle by encouraging its members to adopt all scientific methods to enhance genetic gain and improve conformation standards suitable to twenty first century dairy production. IHFA aims to continue its open herdbook policy where new members are welcome to join and avail of its grade-up service, whereby

commercial dairy cows can be graded to full pedigree with registered traceability. This herdbook service expands the wide genetic diversity of the breed.

www.ihfa.ie

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