

REPORT OF THE FIRST JERSEY LATINAMERICAN FORUM HELD IN COLOMBIA JULY 16-21 2019

During the 2017 WJCB Conference in Costa Rica the Latin American participants held several reunions to discuss the possibility of establishing a recurring forum to strengthen the organizations through exchange of information and establishing personal relations between the participants to promote the breed and Jersey milk.

The idea was to promote the integration of all the Jersey Associations in our geographic area and to help breeders in countries without an association to establish a formal association.

The forum is the space where different topics will be discussed, establishing a more fluid and closer contact.

During the meeting in Costa Rica it was agreed to establish the forum within a period of years.

In conversations with the participants from Colombia with their unconditional support, it is decided to hold the first Forum Meeting in July 2019, in coincidence with the Agroexpo in Bogota.

Thanks to the support of its President Roberto Paez, together with the executive secretary Liliana Quevedo, and with the advice of Gonzalo Maldonado, Jacobo Cabassa and Agustin Robredo, the Forum was held with tremendous success.

We had the participation of the delegates from the following countries.

- Colombia
- Argentina
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Guatemala
- Ecuador
- Costa Rica

The program was developed in two parts:

Medellin-Antioquia

We spent two days in the Medellin Area, visiting the first day “Toscana Jersey Farm”, owned by Juan Carlos Hurtado



We were received very cordially by Juan Carlos and his staff, and informed the group of the history of the farm and his goals in developing the future Jersey Queens we were able to see the genetic excellence of this farm and the enthusiasm of all the participants in the Project.

During this visit, an academic exercise called "Judge yourself" was done by Dr. Carlos Lopez, renowned breeder and animal preparer for the show, as well as judge of different dairy breeds.

The exercise consisted of grouping animals by age in the same categories that would be presented in an exhibition, each participant selected the order of competition and in the end they explained the results.

It was a small show in an incredible place. After a wonderful lunch we had dessert and the best Colombian coffee.



At the end of the visit we walked the grazing herd and paddocks.



Thanks for the Toscana Team for this unforgettable day!

On the second day, we went to “ La Padrera Jersey Farm”, owned by AB&C Investments. The Builes Family, located in San Pedro de los Milagros, situated in the area north of Medellin, where we were received by Lorena Builes the manager of the farm.



Before starting the tour to see the animals and the facilities, the records of production and the data of reproduction were presented by Lorena. Then the vet Wilmar Granados explained the selection program based on genomic tests in all the herd.



Builes Family showing the best cows

The technical part of the visit was presented Mr. Diego Sierra official classifier of the association. During the lunch, Diego explained and demonstrated the classification system they use in Colombia.



Sierra showing the type appraisal program

Later we went to the paddocks and observed the livestock grazing.

Thanks to ABC investments for everything they shared with us.

Later the group flew to Bogota.

Second Part Bogota

In the Corferias park, the activities of the second section followed.

First Day: Meeting of the directors of Associations.

We started the day, receiving a brief presentation from each of the countries participating informing us of the current situation of the dairy and the development of the breed in their country.

The rest of the day we concentrated in profound discussions on the topics we had selected previously to the meeting and which were studied and developed by the participants previous to the meeting. The conclusions of each of the subjects and the country summary is being worked on and we will send a report later.

The subjects discussed were:

- A) Milk recording systems.
- B) Regulations for the registration of imported livestock, semen and embryos.
- C) Pedigree animal registration, and recommendations on the registration of the new Jx Bulls(1,2,3,4,5,)
- D) Type appraisal programs.
- E) Milk payment systems
- F) Work on crossbreeds and registration.
- G) Breed promotion programs and the strength of the Jersey breed in each country.
- H) Association administration, financing and communication with associates, and the management of associations.

During the day these topics were discussed,we had debates, ideas, proposals, where we all learned and taught about the work we are doing.



Eduardo Flores from Venezuela.

Second day meeting:

It was the day of conferences and academic work.

- From Puerto Rico Dr Abner Rodriguez” Nutrition of the jersey cow and its relation to the nutrition content in milk”
- Second conference Peter Larson from Denmark “ The genomics and its importance for the development of the jersey breed”
- From USA Dr Juan Velez “Marketing strategies”

- From Colombia Dr Diego Sierra showing us “Case of success on Finca La Garcia.: Changing from holstein to jersey”

On the third and fourth day we visited the dairy show, and the classification of the jersey breed by the Canadian Callum McKinven.

Impressed with the quality and quantity of animals in the ring, we shared time with the Colombian jersey friends.

Thanks to Asojersesy Colombia for the warm welcome and organization of the incredible program. We leave with great enthusiasm to stay connected and share our jersey world with new friends.

Some of the commitments acquired during the fórum and that we must all work:

- Mantain permanent contact at least every six months through the different communication channels and use WhatsApp chat of the Latin Amercian Forum as a permanent source of contact.
- Invite all and promote the participation of all the countries to participate in the fórum.
- Define the host country for the second Latinamerican Forum in 2021.
- Promote the participation in the annual WJCB reunion which next year will be in Canada.
- The last host country is managing the secretary work until the next event takes place.