

Vice President Report for Europe – Nov 2023

The European dairy sector continued its recovery in the first half of 2023. Accounting for nearly 25% of the world's milk, the disparities are however marked between countries. If Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark have continued to increase their volume, other countries such as France seem to be in lasting decline.

But yet, environmental constraints are becoming stronger and stronger everywhere. The Jersey has an important card to play, whether through its ability to manufacture more solids or to adapt to its system, whether intensive or extensive.

For this reason, it continues its development in all major dairy countries, but also in the most modest for high quality dairy products.

The 2023 European Jersey Forum (EJF) meetings were held in Apeldoorn in the Netherlands from September 15 to 18. Organized by the new breeders' association Nederlands Jersey Stamboek, we brought together 60 people from 10 countries.

We were able to see the essential dimension for the future that water preservation and environmental protection takes here.

Several conferences were held there with quality speakers:

- The calves are the foundation for the herd's future
- Jersey cows are not to be managed as miniature Holstein
- Do we use the right key figures for Jerseys?

As well as 5 beautiful farm visits.

We took the opportunity to set up working groups to discuss themes that seem important to us. These groups should begin very soon via video meetings.

Among the chosen themes:

- Jerseys in relation to climate debate
- Status and strategy for monogenic traits
- Jersey milk price and value

This year again, the EJF wanted to communicate on Facebook with its second European Jersey show. In the absence of being able to actually meet at a show, and given the complexity of bringing together animals from countries with different health requirements. Around 60 Jerseys were able to participate from 8 different countries.

Beyond the positive image that the breeders were able to disseminate, it was also an opportunity for discussions around Ethics and the picture of our respective shows. Before, in the future, also moving forward on a harmonization of judging.

Furthermore, several representatives including myself participated last summer in the WJCB strategy group led by Alison Gibb. The conclusions will soon be presented to you.

I am personally convinced that the EJF, like the other regional forums, must breathe new life into the WJCB. We share the same values and we must work closely together by being a force of proposal by being a relay on the ground.

Finally, I will end by sending you all an invitation to the next WJCB International Conference organized in Denmark in June 2024. Come and meet the Jersey family in this country which is an important global player of Jersey cows with professional, modern breeders and dynamic!

Respectfully submitted

Benoît GUIOULLIER
WJCB Vice President (Europe)

November 2023



The new board of European Jersey Forum 2023

(left to right)

Benoît GUIOULLIER (member)

Aurore GRAVE (secretary)

Jürgen Kouwert (President)

Maike OEGEMA (member)

Bent OLESEN (Vice president)

Peter LARSON (past secretary)



WJCB Annual Meeting

France - Sept 2022



Farm visit « Les Pezerils »

France - Sept 2022