

Vice President Report for Latin America – Nov 2023

- We have enjoyed the time shared with the representatives of all the associations preparing this year's conference, council meeting; and forum. We started working on the programmes last year and look forward to the arrival of the participants coming to enjoy Guatemala, our farms, and the time sharing knowledge in breeding Jerseys and improving agricultural procedures to feed our herds.
- During the 2017 Conference in Costa Rica the Latin American participants accepted the challenge to establish a biannual Forum of all the Latin America Jersey Associations with the purpose of strengthening the local organizations, in improving their services to the associates and in the promotion of the Jersey breed.
- Colombia was designated for the first meeting which was held in July 2019 with excellent results visiting farms in Medellin and Bogota and the group approved the establishment of the Jersey Academy which maintained a monthly YouTube presentation of varied webinars for almost two years until the retirement of Eduardo Roberts.
- We planned the next Forum which was to be held in Ecuador in July 2021 but encountered organization problems and the programme was cancelled and re-scheduled for November 2023 as an additional activity of the Guatemala Council Conference.
- Although we share a common language, we also have many differences between the countries in our geographical zone. The political structures and economic environment has a wide range of positive and negative forces so the Jersey associations have made adjustments to provide the services requested by their associates and finding routes to finance the operations with a varied number of activities. The membership fees, price of registrations, marketing commissions in the sale of replacements, livestock expositions, association magazines, webinars are some of the operations the associations are doing to serve and cover their operational costs and make a profit.
- Immigration, poor education, inefficient operations and low capital investment in equipment and machinery are also causing a problem in our farms. There is a need to invest in training, produce more forages quality feeds as well as improving the efficiency of workers tied up with new programmes of participation in economic results to incentive our labor partners.

- During the time we have worked with the committee, we notice great interest among the persons working in the programme to meet with other breeders and association personnel; and exchange ideas about the management of the associations and the farms. We are now beginning to compare breeding, production indexes and milk prices, as well as comparing Jersey numbers in relation to other breeds in each country.
- We found that some countries are increasing the size of the herds and others are decreasing and having economic difficulties in continuing their operations. We must stay together and have excellent communication in order to find common solutions to serve the producers and the Jersey cause.
- Most of the persons involved in the planning have not participated in a Bureau Conference, and the majority of the persons coming to the forum will not be in the Council meeting and have not received any information about the purpose and services gained by belonging to the Bureau. We must work through the associations to have training webinars for the association members, and the Bureau should make available in its web page operational information which will benefit the breeders and personnel to improve results and assist in making positive operation recommendations.
- Now that we have been trained to participate in virtual Webinars, maybe it can be a form of financing the Bureau by setting a fee schedule for Webinars to help train workers, breeders and administrators. Also, to transmit news about Jersey herd management and technical data and competitive information with other breeds.

COUNTRY BRIEF:

ARGENTINA – WJCB NATIONAL MEMBER

- FOUNDED IN 1979 PRESIDENT AGUSTIN ROBREDO SINCE 2006. THE ASSOCIATION IS VERY ACTIVE, AND AFTER SERVING AS VP FOR 6 YEARS AGUSTIN HAS VISITED MOST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.
- ARGENTINA CONTINUES WITH FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND UNCONTROLLED INFLATION WHICH MAKES IT DIFICULT TO MAKE PROFITABLE DEVELOPMENTS.
- THERE IS GREAT DEMAND FOR HEIFERS NOT FILLED EVEN WITH USE OF SEXED SEMEN.
- JERSEY MILK IS 30% HIGHER THAN HOLSTEIN.
- ASSOCIATION OWNS OFFICE AND HAS A JERSEY MUESEUM RECEIVES \$100 REGISTRATION FEE FOR EACH NEW BULL IMPORTED HELPS FINANCE THE ASSOCIATION.
- ASO PARTICIPATES IN MARKETING JERSEYS AND RECEIVES A BROKAGE FEE.

COLOMBIA – WJCB NATIONAL MEMBER

- ROBERTO PAEZ IS THE PRESIDENT
- LILIANA QUEVEDO SOTO DIRECCION EJECUTIVA OF THE ACJ
- MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES AND COMPLETE LIST OF SERVICES WELL RUN ASSOCIATION.
- HELD FIRST LATIN AMERICA FORUM AND THEY ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS YEARS' ACTIVITIES.
- VERY ACTIVE BREEDERS EXCELENT GENETICS AND THY LOVE COMPETING IN EXPOSITIONS.
- ACTIVE, WELL ORGANIZED, STRONG BACKING.

COSTA RICA – WJCB NATIONAL MEMBER

- DOS PINOS THE INDUSTRIAL DAIRY LEADER IN COSTA RICA AND CENTRAL AMERICA WAS FOUNDED IN 1947 AND HAS HELPED DE DEVELOPMENT OF DAIRY AND BREED ASSOCIATIONS.
- JOSE MANUEL BUSTO IS THE PRESIDENT
- THE ASSOCIATION IS ONE OF THE OLDEST IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND PROBABLY ONE OF THE FIRST NATIONAL MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU.

BRAZIL - WJCB ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT THE BREEDERS IN BRAZIL APARENTLY BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE COUNTRY IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN A CENTRAL ORGANIZATION SO THERE ARE MANY SMALL UNITS IN BRAZIL.

CHILE - WJCB ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT THE ASSOCIATION

ECUADOR - WJCB ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- SEBASTIAN PERRACHON IS THE PRESIDENT
VERY ACTIVE AND PARTICIPATED IN THE COLOMBIA FORUM AND WILL BE COMING TO THE GUATEMALAN FORUM.
- ECUADOR MAY BE AT THE MOMENT THE COUNTRY WITH THE LOWEST PRICES TO THE PRODUCERS.
- IN THE LAST TEN YEARS THE NUMBER OF FARMS DROPPED FROM 6,500 TO 3,000.
- CURRENTLY THERE ARE 360,000 ANIMALS 90% ARE HOLSTAINS AND JERSEYS ARE ABOUT 2% OF THE IVENTORY

MEXICO - WJCB ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- WE HAD SEVERAL EXCHANGES WITH THE DIRECTORS LAST YEAR AND WERE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING WITH GUATEMALA IN THE CONFERENCE, BUT IN THE END INFORMED US THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE PROJECT.

GUATEMALA - WJCB ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- MS MARTA MELGAR DE RAMIREZ IS THE PRESIDENT
- EXCELENT TRADITION AND ALWAYS INOVATING NEW PROPOSALS, THE JERSEY COW IS THE MOST POPULAR IN GUATEMALA BY FAR AND THE ASSOCIATION HAS A TRADITION OF PROMOTING AND HOSTING THE COW EXPOSITIONS.

Conclusion:

It has been an honour to serve the Bureau as Vice President, and I must say that all the persons I have worked with the last few years have been hard working lovers of Jerseys and shared their knowledge freely.

Thank you for the opportunity you granted to me.

Respectfully submitted

Jacobo L Cabassa

WJCB Vice President (Latin America)

November 2023