

News on Cornell Patent N. 0637200 “Method of bovine herd management”

On June 19, the Board of Appeal of the European Patent Office has dismissed the appeal T0365/05 of Cornell Research Foundation in the matter of patent 0637200 with the title "Method of bovine herd management".

The detailed reasons will be given later in written form, but the board followed in general the arguments of the opposition division from 2005. The board especially found that the patent did not contain an inventive step. The joint approach, initiated by the German Cattle Breeders Organisations and supported by all European ICAR-member-states, was therefore very successful. The result means that the matter is settled once and for all and European computing centres are free to use testday models in genetic evaluation and for other purposes.

With the support of several countries it was possible to find relevant publications from the 1970s and 1980s, to demonstrate that the problem was not new and innovative. Gottfried Averdunk did a great job in searching and preparing the relevant documents, communicating with the attorneys etc. and we all are very grateful to him.

More details will be released by ADR as soon as the minutes of the proceedings will be available.

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Background information on the Cornell patent can be found on the PSAS website, at:
http://www.psas-web.net/specific_cases.htm#The_Cornell_patenting_case