SmartCow

an integrated infrastructure for increased research
capability and innovation in the European cattle sector

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

We are writing you today on behalf of **SmartCow, which is a research infrastructure (RI) project**, funded by the European Union, in the frame of the research and innovation program of Horizon 2020. Our project coordinates **a network of key European cattle research infrastructures across Europe**. The objectives of this project are:

- integrate the RIs through networking activities (harmonizing procedures and data sharing)

- increase use of RIs by academics and private research communities, by offering transnational access to the network's resources, with 30 projects involving 60 users

- build new tools to evaluate animal feed efficiency and gaseous emissions

- Develop new protocols to exploit sensor data for animal husbandry

The project interacts with stakeholders to stay in line with industry needs. You can consult its website at http://www.smartcow.eu.

SmartCow centers around 11 major RIs distributed in 7 EU countries (12 locations which include 18 installations, 2500 dairy and 1000 beef cows), this allows a diversified research agenda, in terms of: dairy and beef cattle breeds and genotypes, livestock farming areas, production systems, diets, climatic and environmental conditions. The consortium has a large expertise in terms of animal nutrition, physiology, pathology, ethology, health, welfare, cattle husbandry technology and engineering, genetics, research methodologies and ethics in experimentation. When completed, the project may be extended in a second step to an "advanced community" with a larger consortium, which will extend with new partners.

SmartCow has set out among its first priorities and outcomes in cattle research to give **a harmonized description of the European facilities. This is why we are writing to you today**. SmartCow wants to establish **an inventory of all existing cattle research infrastructures across Europe, and to establish on its website an interactive map of these infrastructures**, allowing web users to get all the available information on each infrastructure. We have begun already to develop this map which you can consult at the following link: http://www.smartcow.eu/map/

For the moment the only RIs mentioned on the map are that of the project partners. **We are developing this inventory, and we hope you will be interested to contribute and enter the infrastructure network we are building**.

We have prepared **a questionnaire, the objective of which is to survey of all the existing cattle RIs in Europe**, we will send it to all research organizations and universities which are likely to have such a RI. We are pleased **to invite you to fill the survey on line** at the following link: http://limesurvey42.idele.fr/index.php/338737?lang=en

The information you will send us will allow us **to describe your RI on the interactive map**. We are convinced that it will also give more visibility to your RI and develop new opportunities for cooperation with other existing RIs.

Yours sincerely

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For any question or information concerning this survey, please contact: **Pauline Madrange**, Institut de l'Elevage, Pauline.Madrange@idele.fr, Tel : +33 (0)4 43 76 06 86, or +33 (0)4 73 62 42 77