

APPENDIX II

PUREBRED SPANISH HORSE BREEDING PROGRAM

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APPENDIX II. PUREBRED SPANISH HORSE BREEDING PROGRAM (TRANSLATED BY ANCCE)

1. INTRODUCTION

The current version of the PRE Breeding Program seeks to update the Program approved by the Resolution of the General Director for Livestock on the 4th of May of 2012, and that has been elaborated according to the guidelines established in the legislation known as Orden APA/1018/2003, by which the basic requirements of the Breeding Programs and the Performance Tests for the genetic assessment of pure bred equines are established and by Royal Decree 2129/2008, dated the 26th of December, by which the national program for the preservation, improvement and promotion of livestock breeds is established.

The following organizations intervene in the execution and supervision of the Breeding Program:

- ANCCE, the National PRE Breeders' Association of Spain, hereinafter the Breeder Association, as the official organization handling the Stud Book for the breed, shall be responsible for developing the Breeding Program.
- The General Office for Agrarian Productions and Markets for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment (MAPAMA) shall be responsible for the approval and supervision of the Breeding Program.
- The Research Group "MERAGEM" (I+D+i PAI AGR-273 and AGR-158) as the Official Center of Animal Genetics, shall be responsible for the Technical Management of the Breeding Program and the genetic assessment of the horses.

This Breeding Program shall detail the objectives for improvement, the selection criteria, the performance tests and the genetic assessment that permit the establishment of the various categories for Breeding Stock within the program: Young Recommended Breeding Stock, Improver Breeding Stock and Elite Breeding stock. Additionally, the stages or phases included in the program shall be established, detailing in each of these, the phenotypical tests, the methodology used to calculate genetic values and the minimum reliability required for each of the categories established.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIAL SITUATION & HISTORIC DATA

As a breed, the Purebred Spanish Horse is the only equine breed that is native to Spain, and currently expanding, as indicated in the Official Catalog of Herd Breeds of Spain. In 1912, the Ministry of Defense Breeding Service (known as Cria Caballar) created the PRE Stud Book that is currently managed by ANCCE.

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This equine breed covers horses that are eumetric (average volume), have intermediate lines with sub-convex to straight profiles (sub-convex contour). Horses have well-proportioned conformation, notable general harmony and with appreciable sexual dimorphism. The height at the withers ranged between 1.54 and 1.72 meters for stallions and 1.52 and 1.70 meters for mares. Horses have paces that are ample, brilliant, agile, energetic, cadenced and elastic with appreciable elevation and extension, notable ease for collection and turns on the haunches. Their temperament must be spirited, noble, docile and well balanced, with a great capacity for learning.

It is the most widespread breed in Spain, found in all of the nation's Autonomous Regions as well as in 62 other countries, both in the European Union and third party countries.

As of December 2016, the breed's herd census reached 231,003 heads (121,879 mares and 109,124 stallions) from 31,050 stud farms. 27,006 performance test were carried out as well as 68,022 genetic assessments.

The latest edition of the Catalog of PRE Breeding Stock, published in 2016, included 61 Young Recommended Breeding Stock (16 for Dressage, 42 for Conformation Traits for Dressage, 2 for conformation+Dressage and 1 for Eventing), 24 Improver Breeding Stock (1 for Dressage and 23 for Conformation Traits for Dressage) and 3 Elite Breeding Stock.

All of this data and information is published annually on the ARCA website (Spain's National Information System).

3. SELECTION OBJECTIVES AND CRITERIA

The main objective is to improve the morphology, conformation and functionality of the PRE Horse. To achieve this general objective, the following specific objectives are contemplated:

- Obtain horses that are healthy, with no hereditary defects.
- Improve the morphological characteristics of the breed, in accordance with the breed quality established for the PRE Horse.
- Improve the conformation, understood as the improvement of the morphology directed towards a specific function, especially Dressage.
- Improve the functional potential of the PRE Horse for the various competitive disciplines, fundamentally Dressage.
- Maintain, and where relevant, improve behavioral traits.

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To achieve these objectives the following selection criteria shall be taken into consideration:

Conformation-functional and behavioral criteria: Based on the performance tests established in the Breeding Program, conformation is assessed using the Linear Conformation Score. This determines the behavior parameters of interest in the PRE by relating them with the functional performance of the horses tested.

Functional criteria: Said results are derived from the information obtained by the horses tested at the sports performance tests, which is a guaranteed and objective tool to measure functionality. Functional performance verification is performed for Dressage, with this Program being open to the incorporation of new disciplines (Eventing has recently been incorporated), if and when there is an adequate number of participating horses.

Together with the above, the following information shall be used to genetically assess horses:

Genealogical Data: Genealogical information is vital, both to obtain the parentage matrix, which is necessary in genetic assessments, and to establish the type of inheritance for specific hereditary diseases and defects. Moreover, it is necessary for calculating the level of inbreeding, both at individual and herd levels as an indicator of the level of genetic variability.

Molecular Data: The available molecular information is used to study population structure studies, genetic variability, design the breed's germplasm bank or look for genes linked to traits of interest within the breed (morphology, functional, reproductive, etc.).

Reproductive, health and genetic: A study of the reproductive apparatus of the horse may be performed, by clinically examining reproductive organs, including a spermiogram and an ultrasounds scan to determine the absence of congenital abnormalities and hereditary defects, paying specific attention to characteristics related to functional and reproductive aptitudes. Where deemed necessary, when considered that a horse may be susceptible to hereditary defects (for example, fallen crest, osteochondrosis, aniridia, melanoma, etc.) that horse shall be subject to a genetic study using cytogenetic or molecular analysis or an inheritance test, depending on the nature of the problem.

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Environmental: These are complementary tests carried out in those tests where the environmental and handling factors condition the results of the horses participating in the test, serving as correction factors in the genetic assessments.

4. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EACH PHASE OF THE PROGRAM

4.1. PERFORMANCE TESTS

Breeding horses are genetically assessed by combining genealogical information and other data derived from the performance tests. For this, a variety of data is collected systematically.

4.1.1. Genealogic Data

The genealogical information shall be obtained from the data collected by the PRE Stud Book (LG PRE), which shall be responsible for periodically supplying the data to the Official Animal Genetic Center.

4.1.2. Morphologic Data

The morphological performance test shall be carried out using a linear conformation scoring, which has been prepared and adapted to the PRE, whose methodology is based on the translation of the degree to which a specific morphological characteristic is expressed on a scale of numerical values according to the established model. This scoring system may be complemented with other secondary morphological data, which contributes complementary information regarding the breed quality of the horse.

These performance tests shall be carried out during the Assessment for Basic Aptitude as Breeding Stock. In addition, these tests may be carried out during other concentrations of animals (competitions, young horse selection tests, federative tests, testing centers, etc). The morphological scores shall be granted by a judge, belonging to the group of linear conformation judges for the breed.

At these performance tests, the following information may collect:

- Identification of the horse: The information necessary for the horse's correct identification is collected, which figures in the Equine Identification Document (EID). In addition, this is complemented by the information available in the PRE Stud Book Office, and with any other relevant

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information to ensure a perfect connection between all the databases used in the various performance tests performed: breeder, current owner, etc.

- **Linear Conformation Scoring:** A score sheet, prepared and adapted to the PRE, is used and shall be the methodology used in the genetic assessment of the morphology of the horses, to determine the various traits, grouped together by body regions such as the head and neck, body, limbs and general characteristics, in keeping with the variables proposed by the Breeding Program managing commission.
- **Zoometric measurements:** the measurements for length, height, angles, perimeters, etc. are collected, which permit the subsequent conformation characterization of the horses, as well as their functional capacity for dressage.
- **Detection of defects:** The degree of expression of morphological and/or phaneroptical defects is collected on a linear scale, with a minimum of five classes.

Morphologic performance tests are carried out using the Linear Conformation Score. This system has been developed and fine-tuned for the PRE; its methodology is based on the degree that a given conformation trait is expressed and translated to a scale of numeric values according to the established breed quality. This score system could be complemented with other secondary conformation data that provides additional information about the “racial character” of the horses.

4.1.3. Functional Data

The functional performance test for Dressage shall take place during the Young Horse Selection Tests, at Dressage Competitions officially recognized by the Royal Equestrian Federation of Spain, both national and international, as well as other events meeting the conditions and necessary technical requirements to perform the genetic assessment of horses. The following information shall be collected at the performance tests:

- **Identification of the horse:** The information necessary for the correct identification of the horses shall be collected.
- **Functional Data:** The final score and the placing of each participant shall be collected, as well as the scores from the judges for walk, trot, canter, submission, and general impression, among others.
- **Environmental data:** Any environmental data that may influence the results of the horses during the tests shall be collected, such as type and state of the

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arena, competition (date and venue site and importance of the event), atmospheric conditions, transportation of the horse to the riding center, level of training, rider, stud farm of origin, prior experience, hours of prior training and horse's level of stress.

- Linear Conformation Score: The linear conformation score may be performed during the test, according to the description in section 4.1.2.
- Behavior data: Behavioral data may be collected from the horses participating in the performance tests, both from the specifically designed tests or the assessment of the various physiological variables (salivary cortisol, amylase, ACTH, eye temperature, heart rate and blood pressure.)

The PRE Breeding Program shall include the aptitudes of the horses for Dressage as criteria for functional selection, as this is the equestrian discipline undertaken by most PRE horses. Nevertheless, the Association may incorporate the assessment of their functional aptitude for other disciplines may also be included, always assuming that the number of horses involved is adequate.

4.2. GENETIC ASSESSMENT

The data from the performance tests, together with the genealogical data, shall be used to perform the genetic assessments of the breeding stock for morphology and their aptitude for Dressage. For these assessments, a suitable methodology shall be used, generally based on the mixed models of the BLUP (Best Linear Unbiased Predictor), by applying an animal model in which all the known relationships between the participants in all the performance tests and the results obtained are considered. This genetic assessment methodology may be substituted or complemented by other, more advanced methodologies (Bayesian method, randomized regression, Thurstonian models, etc.).

The various environmental factors that have resulted significant in an analysis of variance shall be included in the genetic model as correction factors.

Before performing the genetic assessment of the horses, the genetic parameters of the variables to be valued shall be estimated.

All the participants in the performance tests established within the PRE Breeding Program shall be assessed annually depending on their own results and those of all the individuals genealogically related, always provided there is a sufficient amount of data.

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The genetic value for the traits relative to Dressage and Eventing are expressed on a relative scale where the average is 100. Thus, the interpretation of said genetic value must be performed in comparison with horses that have a genetic value for this same trait in the same assessment.

In terms of the genetic value of the linear conformation traits, based on a relative score where the average is 0, the extreme values are determined. As in the previous case, the interpretation of said genetic value is carried out by comparing horses with a genetic value for that same trait in that same assessment. Nevertheless, said values may be modified by the PRE Breeding Program Management Commission.

In addition to the individual values, a Global Genetic Index (GGI) shall be calculated for each group of traits (functional and conformation), obtained from the pondered genetic values for the various traits taken into consideration. Thus, a horse with a GGI that is greater than 100 (average for the population analyzed) is globally recommended for the aptitude considered.

4.3. GENETIC CATEGORIES FOR BREEDING STOCK

Following the genetic assessment of the horses, they may achieve the following categories:

- A) **Young Recommended Breeding Stock for Conformation:** For those horses registered in the Permanent Register of the PRE Stud Book, participants in the performance tests established in this Breeding Program, between 4 and 6 years of age and that have achieved genetic index for morphology for dressage exceeding that of 70 percent (the 30% of horses with the best genetic index). This percentage may be modified from time to time. Likewise, these horses must be outstanding, individually, for their morphologic-functional aptitudes and have exceeded the reproductive and health requirements after undergoing a radiological study to rule out diseases such as osteochondrosis and reproductive organs screened to rule out reproductive abnormalities. This category shall be applicable to horses aged 4, 5 and 6 years, on reaching the age of 7, they shall lose it.

- B) **Young Recommended Breeding Stock for Dressage:** For those horses that participate in the established performance tests (functional Dressage tests), between 4 and 6 years of age and that have achieved a genetic index for Dressage exceeding the population average. Horses must be able to demonstrate that their

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health and reproductive status complies with the mandates established by the Breeder Association after undergoing a radiological study to rule out diseases such as osteochondrosis and reproductive organs screened to rule out reproductive abnormalities. This category shall be available to horses aged 4, 5 and 6 years, on reaching the age of 7, they shall lose it.

- C) Improve Breeding Stock for Conformation Traits:** For breeding horses that are 7 years of age or older, that have already obtained a genetic index for conformation traits for Dressage that is above the herd average, with minimal reliability of 0.6 (repeatability) and that have sufficient descendants in the category as Young Recommended Breeding Stock, after undergoing a radiological study to rule out diseases such as osteochondrosis and reproductive organs screened to rule out reproductive abnormalities.
- D) Improve Breeding Stock for Dressage:** For breeding horses that are 7 years of age or older, that have already obtained a genetic index for Dressage that exceeds the herd average, with minimal reliability of 0.6 (repeatability) and that have sufficient descendants in the category as Young Recommended Breeding Stock. Likewise, these horses must fulfill the conformation, reproductive and health requirements established by the Breeder Association, after undergoing a radiological study to rule out diseases such as osteochondrosis and reproductive organs screened to rule out reproductive abnormalities.
- E) Elite Breeding Stock:** For those horses that are 7 years of age and older, which have achieved the category of Improve Breeding Stock for Morphology for Dressage (section 4.C) and for Dressage (section 4.D). In addition, they must fulfill the conformation, reproductive and health requirements established by the Breeder Association, after undergoing a radiological study to rule out diseases such as osteochondrosis and reproductive organs screened to rule out reproductive abnormalities.

Moreover, the genetic categories for Young Recommended Breeding Stock and Improve Breeding Stock may be obtained by all those horses assessed genetically for other equestrian disciplines (Eventing, Show Jumping, etc.):

- Horses between 4 and 6 years of age and that have obtained a genetic index for that discipline that is greater than the herd average may obtain the genetic category as Young Recommended Breeding Stock for a given

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discipline by participating in the performance tests established for that discipline. Horses must fulfill all reproductive and health requirements established by the Breeder Association, after undergoing a radiological study to rule out diseases such as osteochondrosis and reproductive organs screened to rule out reproductive abnormalities. This category shall be available to horses aged 4, 5 and 6 years, on reaching the age of 7, they shall lose it.

- Horses that are 7 years of age or older may obtain the genetic category of Improver Breeding Stock for a given discipline upon obtaining a genetic index for that discipline that is above the herd average, with a minimal reliability of 0.6 (repeatability), and that have sufficient descendants in the category as Young Recommended Breeding Stock. Moreover, said horses must fulfill all conformation, reproductive and health requirements as established by the Breeder Association, after undergoing a radiological study to rule out diseases such as osteochondrosis and reproductive organs screened to rule out reproductive abnormalities.

4.4. PHASES OF THE PRE BREEDING PROGRAM

The PRE Breeding Program is structured into 5 different phases, as has been established in legislation Orden APA/1018/2003, dated the 23rd of April:

PHASE 1. Genealogical Assessment: Birth Register

In this phase, the foals born each year are identified, and a parentage test is performed using DNA molecules, for their registration in the PRE Stud Book Birth Register, thus assuring the reliability of the genealogical data upon which the genetic assessments proposed in this Breeding Program are based.

In addition, the biological material of the horses forms a part of the sample bank for future use in the diagnosis of hereditary diseases.

PHASE 2. Genealogical Assessment: Definitive Register

To access the Permanent Register of the PRE Stud Book, horses in the Birth Register must pass, as of the age of three (3) years, the assessment for Basic Approval as Breeding Stock, established in the current Specific Stud Book Regulations for this breed.

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From the data supplied by the PRE Stud Book Registers, a genealogical study is performed periodically to determine the main population parameters that facilitate the establishment of genetic variability for the breed: sanguinity coefficient and average relationship, average kinship, influence of blood lines and of emblematic sire stallions, etc.

All this information, combined with the molecular data from the parentage tests, is used in the establishment of objective criteria that favor the genealogical handling of the population. Within the scope of the PRE Breeding Program, all those measures may be adopted as deemed necessary to guarantee the maintenance of the genetic variability of the population and control the levels of consanguinity, avoiding the loss of horses and productive characters of the breed.

In addition, a genetic study of hereditary diseases shall be performed, using the information collected at the morphological performance tests, genetic and molecular information, to eliminate those horses from breeding that are carriers of injurious characteristics or those that cause hereditary diseases, as well as transmissible morphological defects.

PHASE 3. Performance Tests and Individual Genetic Assessment: Young Recommended Breeding Stock and Qualified Breeding Stock

During this phase of the Program, the performance tests for conformation and the aptitude for Dressage are carried out, as well as the corresponding genetic assessments of all the individuals with performance tests (using a matrix of relationships that includes at least up to the fourth known generation of all the horses with available performance tests). Following the genetic assessments, the following categories are established:

- Young Recommended Breeding Stock for Conformation
- Young Recommended Breeding Stock for Dressage
- Young Recommended Breeding Stock for other equestrian disciplines

The Breeder Association, in accordance with the officially approved Dissemination of the PRE Breeding Program, shall give maximum coverage of these horses to increase their reproductive actions to achieve a more rapid genetic progress in the breed. In addition, with breeders timely using Young Recommended Breeding Stock and Qualified Breeding Stock for their individual breeding operation, the number of descendants increases

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quickly, thus facilitating horse's achievement of the category of Improver and/or Elite Breeding Stock.

PHASE 4. Genetic Assessment by Descendants: Improver and Elite Breeding Stock

In this phase of the Breeding Program, genetic assessments of the horses are performed to determine which horses may be considered "Improver Breeding Stock" for each of the previously established and defined categories:

- Improver Breeding Stock for Morphology
- Improver Breeding Stock for Dressage
- Improver Breeding Stock for other equestrian disciplines
- Elite Breeding Stock

These breeding horses are of utmost importance for the breed, as they have proven their genetic quality through the assessment of their descendants and shall therefore be given the maximum possible dissemination so that they may significantly contribute to the improving the breed.

PHASE 5. Catalog of Breeding Stock

Following the annual genetic assessment, the MERAGEM research group shall send the results of the genetic assessments to the Breeder Association, indicating those horses that have achieved any of the aforementioned genetic categories. This information shall be published in the various means of communication available to the Breeder Association, such as in a Catalog of Young Recommended Breeding Stock, Qualified Breeding Stock, Improver Breeding Stock and Elite Breeding Stock. The Young Recommended Breeding Stock and/or Improver Breeding Stock may be for both established categories, or only for one of these.

To offer the breeders as much information as possible, the Breeding Stock Catalog shall present a record sheet for each horse that includes, in addition to the genetic assessments for each of the aptitudes genetically assessed in the Breeding Program, their genealogical data (parents and grandparents), phenotype data and the genetic values of their predecessors.

Those horses that have achieved any of the categories contemplated in the PRE Breeding Program shall be awarded a diploma accrediting their inclusion in said category, and this

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fact shall be noted in their Equine Identification Document (EID). Additionally, information about these breeding horses shall be disseminated so as to facilitate their use within the breed.

The PRE Breeding Program Managing Committee, as is detailed in the appendix to legislation Orden APA/1018/2003, may design a mating system establishing a number of descendants per assessed Breeding Horse, with the object of achieving the maximum genetic progress, without prejudice to the drastic reducing the population variability.

The PRE Breeding Program Management Committee, as indicated in the Appendix of Order APA/1018/2003, may design a mating system and establish a number of descendants per assessed breeding horse to obtain maximum genetic progression, without drastically decreasing herd variability.

5. PARTICIPANTS IN THE BREEDING PROGRAM. OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS OF COLLABORATING BREEDERS.

A number of organizations are actively involved in developing the PRE Breeding Program. These include:

- ANCCE is responsible for developing the breed's Breeding Program.
- MERAGEM Research Group (R+D+I, PAI AGR-273 and AGR-158) and the Official Center for Animal Genetics are responsible for the Technical Management of the Breeding Program and genetically assessing all horses.
- The Germplasm Bank is determined by the Breeders' Association that is responsible for developing the Breeding Program.
- Officially recognized reproduction centers.
- Collaborating stud farms: the Breeding Program is open to all Purebred Spanish Horses. Breeders may request to participate in the breed's Breeding Program; once included, as a collaborating stud farm, and while participating, shall abide by all of the applicable rules governing said Program. The list of collaborating stud farms is published every year on the National Information System ARCA.

Obligations of collaborating stud farms:

1. Committed and active participation at the various activities programmed.
2. Facilitate the collection of data to official staff from the Breeder Association: morphologic assessment, lineal conformation score, biological samples for genetic controls, etc.

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3. Allow the collection of semen from stallions that are being verified for their genetic assessment to make up the PRE Germplasm Bank.

Collaborating stud farms shall have the right to receive timely information relative to the level of genetic variability of their stud farm and the genetic assessment of their horses.

6. DISSEMINATION OF IMPROVEMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE BREED.

Among the possible promotional measures, the most outstanding include:

1. Technical support for the stud farm, in order to obtain both the genetic improvement of the breed as well as maintaining the genetic variability of the herd.
2. Distribute the traits for its aptitudes by developing breed promotional programs at trade fairs, competitions, programs in the media, displays, etc.
3. Training for breeders and Breeder Association technicians.
4. Draft the work methodology to control mating, data collection, performance tests, etc.
5. Distribution program for semen doses.
6. PRE outreach publications and programs.
7. Publish the Official Breeding Stock Catalog, with genetic assessment information and the genetic qualities of the breeding stock.

The above measures proposed to promote the breed must be complemented with actions seeking the preservation (of the breed), as recommended by the FAO, such as the creation of a Germplasm Bank.

7. PUREBRED SPANISH HORSE BREEDING PROGRAM MANAGEMENT COMMISSION.

A PRE Breeding Program Management Commission has been created as a dependent organization of the officially recognized Breeder Association to handle the Stud Book and the Breeding Program. The functions of the management Committee include:

- Facilitating the coordination and follow-up of the PRE Breeding Program.
- Working as a liaison between the General Government and the Breeder Association officially recognized to handle the Stud Book and the development of the Breeding program, in zootechnical terms and, as would be the case, exercise as an organization to study, analysis and propose zootechnical actions for the breed.

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- The periodic review of the development of the Breeding Program, proposing the necessary modifications for the efficient compliance of the objective, or presenting, where relevant, proposals for regulations.
- Presenting proposals before the competent authorities that permit a better execution of the current regulations.
- Proposing, where relevant, modifications to the Breeding Program and the zootechnical Regulations of the breed.
- Coordinating, evaluating, reporting about and analyzing the situation of the performance tests and the genetic assessments.
- Providing the necessary means to train authorized personnel, as well as establishing information routes and the training of the breeders.
- Guarantee the correct application of rules and regulations by authorized personnel and to periodically evaluate and report on the achievement of the objectives.
- Attending incidents and claims deriving from the development of the PRE Breeding Program.

The PRE Breeding Program Management Committee shall be composed of members of the Breeders Association officially recognized to handle the Stud Book and the Breeding Program in addition to the staff at the Official Center for Animal Genetics (Technical Director of the PRE Breeding Program or the appointed person).

The Committee shall approve its own operational rules and regulations and in all cases, shall meet at least once every six months, and as often as the situation requires, by means of a summons from its President. The Committee may assign work groups and specific sub-committees to study and propose specific matters.

Similarly, breed inspectors and the person responsible for the Official Center for Animal Genetic supervising the Breeding Program and those who, bearing in mind their professional competence, are expressly invited by the President, may also attend the meetings.