Dear colleagues,

Please find below the BTO report from the US cloning industry meeting of 9 December

Best regards

Attendance:
USA
In Iowa, Bovance and TransOva
In Texas, ViaGen
In Washington, BIO and also (only at the beginning);
EU
SANCO: Eric Poudelet, AGRI:

Constructive dialogue with main US cloning companies which has been organized by EU Delegation at Washington.
Others existing US cloning companies (SYAGRA and Minitub) not present in this meeting.

Main information:

-Number of cloned animal by species in US:
  Bovine: 1100 (50% male and 50% female); Pig: 190; Sheep: 0; Goat: at start
  Horses: >100 Others: Deers
  More cloned beef cattle than cloned dairy cattle.

-Cost of a clone:
  Bovine: 18000 $; Pig: 1500 $ each piglet (6 on average); Horses: 165000 $

-Marketing aspects:
Clone animals are delivered at 6 months old.  
No cryo keeping of extra embryos except for horses.

-Success rate of cloning technique:  
Bovine: 10 to 20% depending races; pig >50%; horses: 15%.  
Still high percentage of failure during pregnancy (critical period 60 to 90 days) for cloned bovine. No specific problem for the surrogated mothers.  
Current private researches to improve success rate. Results not publicly available.

-Cloning technique:  
Only SNCT used (Roselyn Institute patent)  
Increasing development of genomic selection. Could be combined with the cloning of younger animals.  
No scientific study on animal welfare but guidelines from the International Embryo transfer society.

-Animal identification:  
Cloned animals are individually identified and registered. No information if reproductive materials (semen and embryo) of cloned animals are identified as such (responsibility of each breeding center).  
SANCO asked for a contact point for US Semen/Embryo industry and research on efficiency and welfare issues.  
NB: Trans Ova also involved in the marketing of embryo from offspring.

CONCLUSION: Agreement for further meeting in the coming months.