

NEWSLETTER 02/2016

Dear VERA stakeholder,

Since our last newsletter, we worked intensively on several topics. Today we would like to update you with the latest news and developments from the VERA initiative.

Verifications

VERA Verification Statement awarded to JH Forsuring NH4+ acidification system

A new VERA Verification Statement has been awarded to the Danish company JH Agro A/S for its slurry acidification system JH Forsuring NH4+. The system has now a verified ammonia reduction efficiency of 64 % when applied in finishing pig units. At this year's EuroTier the statement was awarded to JH Agro A/S in a short ceremony. You can find the English as well as a German version of the statement on the VERA website: www.vera-verification.eu.

Current verification applications

Several VERA applications are currently in process addressing mainly the VERA test protocol for livestock housing and management systems. Among others, most applications are floor systems for dairy houses. We will keep you updated and publish them on the VERA website after successful verification.

Trade fairs and conferences

In 2016 the International VERA Secretariat performed intensive travel activities to European trade fairs, conferences and events. Here is a short summary of the most important events.

DLG-Field days

With an exhibition stand VERA was part of the "Special: manure" at the very rainy DLG-Field days which took place 14-16 June at Gut Mariaburghausen in Hassfurt, Germany. Dr Andreas Pacholski, German member of the IVC for land application, presented the VERA test protocol for land application in the expert forum.

CIGR AgEng conference

Only two weeks later, VERA presented its work on the test protocols – especially on livestock housing and management systems and on air cleaners during an open session at the international CIGR AgEng conference in Aarhus, Denmark. This session was well attended and resulted in fruitful discussions and interesting impulses.

Having a big number of VERA experts already onsite, also a closed workshop for the IVC Housing Systems was held to further discuss the revision of the relevant test protocol.

EuroTier – official exhibitor, VERA Statement award, panel discussion

At this year's EuroTier in Hanover 15-18 November VERA acted for the first time as an official exhibitor on the stage of the world's leading trade fair for animal production. The trade fair offered a broad array of interesting discussions and we look forward to receiving new VERA applications subsequently.

The International VERA Secretariat took the opportunity and awarded the VERA Verification Statement to JH Agro A/S during a short ceremony at its exhibition stand with the presence of company representatives and representatives of the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture.

Furthermore, VERA initiated and chaired a panel discussion in the “Forum: Pig production”. Four German experts, representing governmental agencies, science and consultancy services for farming and building permits, talked about upcoming national and European regulations in the field of emissions.

Expert Activities

Currently, all VERA test protocols are revised to update them to the latest state-of-the-art.

Housing and management systems: The revision of the VERA test protocol is in full swing with a focus on integrating measurement methods for naturally ventilated buildings, which are common in dairy houses and for which we have most applications at the moment. As the changes are major, a final approval is not be estimated before summer next year. It is, however, intended to present the revised VERA test protocol at two scientific conferences in 2017.

Air cleaning technologies: The revision of this VERA test protocol is nearly to be finalized and soon ready for publication. With a special expert workshop in 2017, also measurement methods for bioaerosols should be part of the VERA test protocol. We are very happy that we could welcome additional Dutch and German experts for the group, being specialists in the field of bioaerosols.

Slurry separation: A first step for the revision and common approval by all three VERA member countries of the existing test protocol for **slurry separation** has been done during the IVC meeting in September at the experimental farm of University of Hohenheim. This beautiful location offered the group the opportunity to visit two active slurry separators onsite.

Manure covers: In analogy to slurry separation, this is the second VERA test protocol which has by now only been approved by Denmark and the Netherlands. Revision and approval by all three countries was focussed by a newly cast IVC expert group during their meeting in November.

Land application: The use of new publications and finalized scientific studies will ease the revision of this VERA test protocol. For that, a 2-day meeting of the expert group will take place at the beginning of February 2017 in Wageningen, the Netherlands.

VERA Material

New common foundation: General VERA Guidelines

One step to our target to standardize the verification process and force mutual recognition is (nearly) reached: the “General VERA Guidelines”, as a general document defining all procedures and responsibilities within VERA, are now almost finalized. The approved general guidelines will pave the way for broadening the cooperation and inviting new countries to join the VERA initiative. We will inform you upon approval by the International VERA Board and subsequently, publish them on the VERA website.

New VERA brochure

Along with various other new marketing materials, the existing VERA brochure was reworked. You will find it for free download on our website: <http://www.vera-verification.eu/en/about-vera/>

We wish you a good time in December, a good holiday season and a good start into 2017!

In the meantime, we are happy to answer any questions regarding VERA you might have.

Kind regards

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About VERA

VERA is a multinational collaboration between Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany for testing and verifying environmental technologies within the agricultural sector. It includes test protocols for the following technologies for:

- ✓ air cleaning
- ✓ livestock housing and management
- ✓ slurry separation
- ✓ land application
- ✓ mitigation systems for stored manure.

Beside farmers and authorities also manufacturers of such technologies benefit of this collaboration with regards to approval processes. Manufacturers get the possibility to have their technologies tested by a neutral and recognised test. The VERA test protocols were developed by well-known experts of the participating countries and provide comparable and substantiated results with a high level of acceptance. A VERA verification statement confirms that the technology was tested by a competent test laboratory according to the specifications of the relevant VERA protocol. The results allow to derive efficiency levels which can be considered with regards to emission evaluations, e. g. in approval processes. The authorities receive secured data which at the same time supports the farmer when planning new investments. The manufacturer bears all costs for the test; costs for the evaluation and issuing of the verification statement will be covered by the responsible national ministries via the VERA secretariat.