

GENETICS EXPORTS 2023/24

WINTER 2023/2024

AHDB

EXPORTS



UK TAG

SHROPSHIRE SHEEP AT THE FOREFRONT OF EXPORTS

Claire Jakeman, Sales Officer, Shropshire Sheep Breeders Association & Flock Book Society writes:

"Having carried over sales enquires we were not able to progress due to Brexit and Covid, the Society successfully converted these enquiries into 9 orders comprising 69 sheep going into Germany, Belgium, France and Northern Ireland.

Although we have been exporting for over 30 years, this year proved to be one of the most demanding we have ever had to deal with. Lack of border control posts, sourcing new routes, the many changes in Europe, one of them being their requirement for ARR/ARR rams even though all our export breeders attain MV Accredited and Scrapie Monitored (negligible risk) status, their governments would only allow purchasers to import R1 rams.

Fortunately, due to our breeders holding a high health status they did not need the full export genotype certificate and we were able to source a company who



were able to genotype for £16 per test.

We are indebted to our hauliers, Gilders, who worked with us and the sheep all arrived safely and in good condition.

Very happy reports have been received from our purchasers and breeders which makes all the hard work worthwhile. These orders brought in over £21,000 on behalf of our Breeders and the Society." ●

Here are some of the comments received:

'Please pass on my thanks to all concerned in making this export happen'

'The rams have arrived safely and are happy to eat hay'

'The Shropshires have arrived safely and all in good condition'

'You have pulled it out of the bag again!'

'The rams arrived this morning – pretty impressed by their size and development, really happy with them.'



www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk

KAZAKH OPPORTUNITIES FOR UK GENETICS

The British Kazakh Society (BKS) in cooperation with UK Department for Business and Trade (DBT) hosted an agri-business webinar on Wednesday 5 October 2023, with speakers from Kazakhstan and the UK, moderated by Rob Grinnall, UKECP (UK Export Certification Partnership). With a focus on promoting the export of UK livestock to Kazakhstan, the speakers discussed the importance of quality genetics and the benefits of genetic diversity as well as highlighting the investment opportunities in this field in Kazakhstan.

The panel comprised:

- Dave Skeels, Director, British Kazakh Society
- Tatyana Blazhiyevich (UK DBT, Agricultural Lead)

- Kalzhan Agrynbay, Project Manager, KazInvest, Astana who spoke on 'Why Kazakhstan.'
- Henry Sanderson, International Sales Manager, Cogent Breeding Ltd, Chester, whose topic was 'Genetics for the future.'
- Indira Beishova, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Head of the Genetic Laboratory of WKATU (West Kazakhstan Agrarian-Technical University), who summarised the projects being undertaken in researching livestock production



- Kevin Harrison, Chair of NSA English Committee, National Sheep Association, detailed 'The importance of genetics and genetic diversity in the sheep flock' showing how UK sheep breeds could help in all regions of the vast Kazakh farming landscape. ●

A recording of the webinar is available on the BKS website: www.bksoc.org.uk
Rob Grinnall rob.grinnall@ukecp.com

ESSIE SUFFOLKS TO GEORGIA

73 Pedigree Suffolk sheep were exported by air from Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire to Georgia, Eastern Europe 20-21 October, 2023

A further consignment of 73 Suffolk sheep from Irene and Jim Fowlie's Essie flock based in Aberdeenshire has arrived safely in Georgia. Satisfying a demand for pedigree Suffolk sheep which were both very high health and at the top of the Performance Recorded Index saw the Essie flock well placed due to its MV (Maedi-Visna virus) accreditation and being in the Scrapie Monitored scheme for 14 years, as well as in the top 1% of UK performance recorded pedigree Suffolks.

Although there was no Export Health

Certificate (EHC) from UK to Georgia at the time, back in July 2021 the original batch of 36 Essie Suffolk sheep (32 females and 4 rams) flew to Georgia thanks to agreements put in place by Defra, APHA and UKECP (UK Export Certification Partnership) to establish a foundation flock there.

The repeat buyers, the Adjara Group, plan to continue 'improving' traditional Georgian sheep breeds which have traditionally been bred for milk, cheesemaking and wool, to expand their foundation flock, and to develop their Suffolk sheep

on growth and meat conformation lines.

Despite quite a heavy burden of 'paperwork' including health protocols and journey plans, and with great store put on animal welfare, the 76 ewe lambs and gimmers successfully cleared customs and flew in specially-designed crates in the hold of the plane, which had to be air-conditioned and maintained at a temperature between 4-6°C with stop-overs in Maastricht and Istanbul before reaching their final destination, an olive grove in Georgia. ●



FIELDS OF CHANGE: CHARTING THE PATH FOR UKRAINIAN AGRICULTURE



AGCO's Richard Markwell addressing the meeting

5 October 2023 saw a meeting held in Brussels, Belgium under the banner 'Charting the Path for Ukrainian Agriculture' attended by the UK's Chris Jackson (UKTAG – UK Technology for Agriculture & Genetics) and Rob Grinnall (UKECP – UK Export Certification Partnership) with the event co-funded and organised by UCAB (Ukrainian Agribusiness Club) and AGCO, a global company, serving as a link between the agricultural product and manufacturing value chains.

Market Access is a key area with a focus on the livestock and germplasm required to assist Ukraine in its post-conflict rebuild after the war. Both representatives spoke to Nazar Bobitski, Director of the EU Office of UCAB, and brought up the enquiry for 30,000 live sheep that has been brought before the UK industry. Despite new certificates previously being negotiated for germplasm, the outbreak of war has stopped the attention required to pass the Export Health Certificates (EHCs) needed for live sheep and goats, cattle or bovine embryos.

Comments Rob: "It would seem pertinent and sensible to prepare for the restocking that will be required. I also sense a market opportunity for the UK

post-Brexit to agree mutually acceptable EHCs direct with Ukraine especially as EU red tape seems to be hampering progress there."

Participants came from across the EU as well as outside to listen to the financial sector, political figures and agricultural industry who all had interest in the future of rebuilding Ukrainian agriculture. The morning sessions were dominated by banking sector all of whom touched upon the huge need for private and banking investment. Some USD 60–90 Billion is needed in the short term to support and begin the rebuild of the ag sector comprising both small farming properties and vast agricultural holdings.

Of course, wheat/grain exports are the major commodity and whilst Ukraine has been a huge world producer, the amounts of grain produced, and the price paid, is extremely volatile. Without the ability to sell forward, the price achieved can be USD100 per tonne less than that on the world market. Farms have gone from making a profit to loss due to this huge price differential.

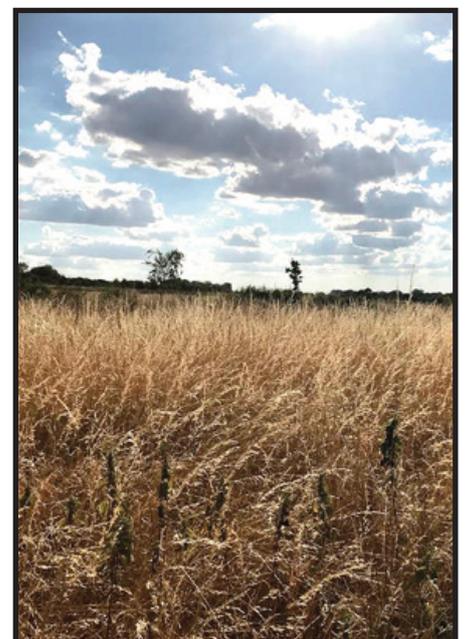
With the Black Sea ports being almost closed, grain is being sent overland to eastern EU, but getting across the borders is time consuming and

bureaucratic, with queues of 12 days not unusual.

The afternoon was given over to farming companies, who spoke of the promise of grants from the EU, with large sums available at least in theory, but those present did not know of any funding that had actually been reached. The Ukrainian representative to the EU spoke of how even with her place of knowledge and contact she could not navigate her applicants through the bureaucracy to the relevant people.

With the farmers and workers having left the east of Ukraine, it was difficult to achieve any real industry in that region at this moment, but they were hopeful that the push back would bring more land back into the sector.

Speakers were extremely friendly towards UK involvement and grateful for the UK support so far, but more is needed. Only small mention was made on the loss of livestock due to the invasion, but repopulation is clearly required. According to the Ukraine's Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, as of 22 June 2022 the official estimated number of animals killed is 42,000 sheep, 92,000 cattle and 258,000 pigs. More than 5.7 million poultry have been lost. ●



VIETSTOCK 2023

One of the leading livestock trade shows in the Asia-Pacific region, VietStock, took place from 11-13 October in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. 350 exhibitors were on hand to welcome an estimated 13,000 visitors from over 50 countries worldwide with the British Pavilion run by UKTAG.

The stand was busy throughout the 3 days with lots of interest, especially for both beef and dairy cattle. The pig industry now seems to be established but still wanting more improved genetics as it tries to recover from ASF.

The Department for Livestock are keen to revisit the UK to understand better our offer for genetics and agri tech in general. ●



BORDER CONTROL POSTS

NSA urges clarity and progress on exports of breeding animals in light of new legislation

Following the introduction of the new Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill in early December, the National Sheep Association (NSA) is urging the Government not to allow new legislation banning live export of livestock for slaughter to further impede a return to the export of breeding livestock to the EU.

As you will be aware, the ability to export stock destined for slaughter has been halted following the UK's departure from the EU, however British farmers have also faced a severe barrier in their ability to export breeding stock with none going over the short straight route to the Continent due to the absence of a live animal Border Control Post (BCP) at Calais, France meaning any movements have had to go far further via Scotland, Northern Ireland and through the Republic of Ireland.

NSA is therefore calling on Government and Defra to urgently explore ways to overcome the absence of any live animal facility over the short straights, and to be clear in communications that they are not only continuing to allow the export of live breeding animals, but actively supporting this important trade. ●

www.nationalsheep.org.uk

SCAWFELL SEES UK SEMEN DEMAND

Scawfell Genetics, as well as being one of the fastest growing independent bull studs, has recently had a number of successes in the semen export market both marketing its own, but mainly customers' bovine semen straws via their online e-commerce website, namely www.ibreeder.co.uk.

Notable exports have been achieved to; Northern Ireland, Ireland, Portugal,, France, USA, Australia, Canada, Turkey,

Italy, Czech Republic, Denmark and Norway. This demand has been seen for British Genetics across numerous breeds with customers worldwide sourcing all types, native breeds, easy calving, easy fleshing all the way through to some of the most extreme muscled bulls available. "We have also seen a growing demand in polled genetics, mainly within the Limousin breed back into Europe and certain other countries" says Scawfell's James Hazard. ●



www.ibreeder.co.uk

UK SIRES HELPING DEVELOP JERSEY ISLAND GENETICS IN RWANDA

Rob Wills, Director of UK Sire Services, writes:

UK Sire Services is proud to be an essential link in Dairy for Development (D4D) projects, managed by Jersey Island Genetics and partners in Africa, through projects funded by Jersey Overseas Aid. The basic drive at ground level is to work towards “a cup of milk a day for every child in Rwanda.”

D4D aspires to bring greater profitability, improved health and climate-smart environmental benefits to ever increasing areas on the African continent. Long renowned to be incredibly adaptable in a range of different environments worldwide, the Jersey breed has numerous highly sought after commercial benefits, such as heat tolerance, fertility, ease of calving, productivity, profitability, great temperament, milk quality and positive health traits. The D4D projects, across primarily East Africa, target many of these traits through specific crossbreeding programmes with native/indigenous breeds, with recent scientific research lending weight to the suitability of the Jersey as the ‘exotic’ breed of choice for Africa.

Unsurprisingly the greatest needs for the difficult climatic and managerial conditions in Africa highlight the need for high fertility and robustness, defined simply as survivability, as well as the points mentioned above. Within Rwanda, it is being found that an F1-cross Island Jersey on the indigenous Ankole can increase milk yield by a multiple of 4, over the pure Ankole and, importantly, as a smaller animal, off the same or less dry matter intake. The F1 cross also greatly improves lactation persistency.

Regular teams of bulls are brought to the stud at UK Sires’ EU and export licenced stud at Dartington in Devon where they firstly complete their rigorous testing in quarantine before commencing collection at the facility. Semen is then stored, initially in quarantine at the EU licenced store, ready for preparing consolidated and regular shipments to Rwanda and, less frequently, Ethiopia, Zambia and Malawi. The team at the store have enormous experience of packing and preparing export shipments and, by working

closely with our Supervising Veterinary Officer and her team, completing all of the necessary and required documentation for each shipment.

UK Sire Services Ltd was set up in 2001 in the aftermath of the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak and have the largest independent bull stud in the UK. The company does not own bulls or semen but acts as a custom collection centre that adds value to owners’ bulls by finding markets for semen collected, both in the UK and overseas. UK Sires has built up an enviable and hard-earned reputation in the bull semen export marketplace. Hannah Smith, now working with Founder Director Rob Wills, heading up the thriving Export Division at UK Sires says: “At the last count we have exported to 54 different countries worldwide with continual interest from many other countries every week of the year! The company has collected semen from 48 different breeds and so helps put ‘off-farm income, or new money’ into British bull owners’ pockets.” ●

www.uksires.co.uk



UKS F1 Jersey-cross female



UKS Ankole cattle indigenous to Rwanda



UKS training AI technicians in Rwanda



AHDB AND UK GOVERNMENT BACK RED MEAT EXPORTS



ANUGA 7-11 Oct 2023

Anuga, held every two years in Cologne, Germany, is the world's biggest agri-food trade show attracting more than 170,000 trade buyers from 187 countries. It provides the ideal platform for exporters to connect with international buyers, build new relationships and expand their presence in the global market. Earlier this year, the Government committed to investing £2 million to boost its programme of global trade shows and missions and £1.6 million for the GREAT food and drink campaign. This will complement AHDB's £8 million annual investment in exports to facilitate trade and grow our reputation as a producer of quality, safe and wholesome food.

At the event, Kevin Hollinrake MP, Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business at the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), met and threw his support behind red meat exporters in the British Meat Pavilion.

During the summer, the Government launched a recruitment drive to appoint five extra agri-food attachés to help boost the UK's agri-food exports; this brings the total number of dedicated UK agri-food attachés to 16. The new



attachés will cover northern Europe, southern Europe, Australia/New Zealand, South Korea and Africa.

Jonathan Eckley, AHDB Head of International Trade Development, said: "We are excited to showcase the Union Flag at Anuga 2023 and highlight the exceptional quality of British red meat and dairy products. Our participation reflects the commitment to deliver on the objectives to develop international markets for our producers, provide valuable market analysis and insights, and promote the reputation of our

products to foreign buyers.

"We aim to lay the groundwork for every British producer to see how important exporting is in underpinning the future of their farmgate returns. Anuga presents a unique opportunity to further strengthen existing partnerships, establish new connections and bolster the reputation of British red meat and dairy in the global marketplace." •



Dates for your diary 2024

NORTH AMERICAN HILL SHEEP SHOW

Escanaba, Michigan, USA 19-21 September 2024



This three-day UK-style hill sheep show aims to promote and pay tribute to hill breeds, the culture, and have a fantastic time with normal, everyday shepherds and sheep enthusiasts. It comes on the back of recent exports of British-bred sheep genetics to the USA. The show's emphasis is on UK Hill breeds: Scottish Blackface, North Country Cheviot, Herdwick, Border

Cheviot, and Black Welsh Mountain. It will also include Mules (Scotch & Cheviot Mules), Bluefaced Leicester, and terminal sire breeds such as Suffolk and Texel. The North American Hill sheep Show extends an invitation to come and explore the breathtaking Upper Peninsula of Michigan during the most romantic time of the year. •

www.nahillsheepshow.com

EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATION



Specimen Export Health Certificates (EHCs) and their accompanying Notes for Guidance are now available on the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>. For all enquiries, please get in touch with admin@ukecp.com

As reported in the last Export Bulletin, the USA has been open to sheep embryos since November 2022 following many years of work on both sides of the Atlantic. Such access for UK sheep breeders has potential export value forecast at over £1 million in its first year. •

BCBC CONFERENCE – HOW CATTLE FARMERS CAN GO GREENER



The British Cattle Breeders Club conference returns to Telford 22-24 January 2024, and will explore why the UK's cattle industry is part of the climate change solution and how breeding can help meet greening targets.

The industry has pledged to become net zero by 2040, and some national governments are already proposing livestock reductions.

However, there is another, more sustainable solution to meet targets, believes BCBC Chairman, Ben Harman.

He adds: "We can adapt our breeding and management practices by making the best use of science and technology to improve animal efficiencies and reduce emissions. This will also drive business profitability."

This year's BCBC keynote presentations will bring together farmers and academia to understand how this can be achieved. These include:

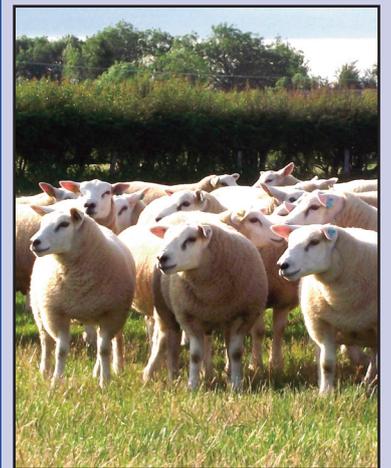
- Professor John Gilliland, farmer and special adviser for AHDB, will talk about the Accelerating Ruminant Carbon Zero (ARCZero) project that he is leading. The project comprises seven farms in Northern Ireland that are undertaking carbon audits, including the assessment of carbon stocks within soils and trees, with the aim of identifying where future management can be changed to accelerate their move towards net zero
- Beef farmer Duncan Morrison from Aberdeenshire will reveal how he is running a profitable 240-head suckler herd that is delivering environmental credentials

- Professor Elizabeth Magowan, from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), will present the findings of a recent study that examined how the cattle industry can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions at a farm and national level
- Professor Alice Stanton, clinician-scientist, will explain why policymakers and scientists should be wary of reports advocating dramatic reductions or exclusions of red meat and dairy
- Bjørg Heringstad, a research scientist at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) and Geno Breeding, will present the latest results of their green cow project aimed at breeding feed-efficient Norwegian Red cows

Mr Harman adds: "I am hugely excited about the BCBC 2024 conference. To deliver on my chosen theme of 'revolutionising cattle breeding for a sustainable future' seemed somewhat optimistic. Now we are close to finalising the programme, I am convinced that we have assembled a congregation of speakers with the knowledge, passion and brilliance to make a generational change to the sustainability of cattle breeding in the UK." ●



www.cattlebreeders.org.uk



BRITISH TEXEL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

In 2024, there will be a number of special events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the British Texel Sheep Society.

These include:

- Inter-club competition day 5 July
- Summer Sizzler Party 5 July
- Extravaganza National Show 6 July
- International visitors workshop and flock tour 6–10 July

It is hoped to bring an Inward Mission of overseas Texel breeders to the event. ●



www.texel.uk

CHECK OUT

www.agritech-uk.org

The AgriTech website promotes all aspects of AgriTech from the UK with special emphasis on Livestock and Genetics. Each overseas event includes a listing of participating companies to help exhibitors raise their profiles internationally. Please visit the website to add your profile and sign up for News updates. ●



Agritech UK

Dates for your diary 2024

BRITISH LIVESTOCK AT EUROTIER

12-15 November 2024, Hannover, Germany



The British Livestock sector is again planning a joint industry stand supported by cattle, sheep and pig societies alongside breeding and other associated companies.

Held every two years, this is the world's largest indoor livestock exhibition boasting 150,000+ visitors and over 2,300

exhibitors – half of whom are international companies. As such, a strong UK presence allows British farming and breeding organisations to promote themselves on the global stage.

If you would like to be part of the British Livestock Pavilion at EuroTier, Hannover, Germany, Tuesday 12 – Friday 15

November 2024, opportunities to participate are available at a provisional cost of £500-£1,000. Further information from Richard Saunders on **07901768904** or **richardsaunders1965@yahoo.co.uk**.



SELECTED OVERSEAS EXPOS 2024

Event Name	City	Country	Date
* Farmtec-Agritech	Astana	Kazakhstan	11-14 March
* Expo Activa	Soriana	Uruguay	12-16 March
* ILDEX	Ho Chi Minh City	Vietnam	29-31 May
* ILDEX	Manila	Philippines	28-30 August
* EuroTier	Hannover	Germany	12-15 November

* For further details and information on funding opportunities please email UKTAG's Chris Jackson exports@uktag.co.uk



UK TAG



The British Livestock Genetics (BLG) website continues the work of promoting the UK livestock and animal breeding sector to a global audience. Please visit www.britisHLivestockgenetics.com for all the news, report and details of upcoming events.

For further information on Genetics and Livestock Exports, please contact Richard Saunders on **07901 768904** or **richardsaunders1965@yahoo.co.uk**