

GENETICS EXPORTS 2017

SPRING 2017



Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of the Genetics & Livestock Bulletin which reports on overseas expos and inward missions supporting British livestock exports, as well as highlighting the successes of individual breeders and breeding organisations. The fall of Sterling against the Euro has made British stock prices more competitive and convinced European buyers to switch to British livestock for quality. Exporters are reporting the highest level of interest for many years in the first part of 2017. A thank you is extended to BLG (British Livestock Genetics Consortium), AHDB (Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board) and DIT (Department of International Trade) for their efforts in promoting the 'Best of British'!

International Visitors at Beef Expo

Ten international delegates joined an Inward Trade Mission 16-19 May 2017 held around the National Beef Association's Beef Expo at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. Supported by BLG (British Livestock Genetics Consortium) and AHDB (Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board) the visit was co-ordinated by Richard Saunders and John Fleming.

Coming from Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia and Germany respectively the attendees came from a wide background of experience in cattle breeding, genetics and meat marketing with their main breed interest being Aberdeen Angus, British Blue and Galloway.

A highlight of the Inward Mission were the Beef Expo Farm Tours held on the 17 May. Showcasing the very best of British beef production, a diverse selection of beef farms were chosen – all championing efficiencies in their relative sectors. Tom and Roger Elliott of Upper Heyford Farm presented their herd of 300 British Shorthorn, South Devon and

crossbred cattle, demonstrating how their system optimises forage to produce quality native-bred stores and replacement heifers.

Upper Coton Farms, Guilsborough, is home to Mike, Jane and Charlie Wills' Approved Finishing Unit which finishes 1,300 cattle per year. The combination of precise cattle selection – predominantly Limousin-bred – and rigorous attention to

home-grown feed results in tremendous performance to maximise liveweight gain and minimise cost per kilo.

John Bell, Berryfields Farm, Daventry focused on presenting a fully integrated beef supply chain based around Holstein bull calves through Meadow Quality and his own feed plant, Berrystock Feeds. The system relies on quality-assured calves and efficient feeds to maximise return.

The group was welcomed to the AHDB stand by Jean-Pierre Garnier, Head of Exports, who spoke about the British beef industry and its world-leading position as an exporter of meat, genetics and livestock ●



left to right: Beef Expo Inward Mission • JP Garnier, AHDB, addresses IM delegates • Trailer tours at Upper Heyford Farm • AHDB butcher Martin Eccles with German farmer Birgit Huetter



Strong UK Presence at Ukraine Show

Representatives from the UK sheep, cattle and pig sectors were part of an impressive Great Britain and Northern Ireland presence at the Agro-Animal & Grain Tech Show held in Kiev, Ukraine, 15-17 February 2017. Supporting UK Agri-tech exports were the British Embassy Kiev, Department of International Trade (DIT) and UKTAG (UK Technology for Agriculture & Genetics). UK exhibitors were delighted to welcome Judith Gough, British Ambassador to Ukraine, to the stand to talk about developing trade between the UK and Ukraine.

Representatives from the UK livestock sector included Sue and Aubrey

Andrews from Miserden Texels/ British Texel Sheep Society, Chris Jackson from British Pig Association, Richard Saunders from BLG and Delta Wagyu Europe. Other UK companies present were JCB, Baker-Tilly, Househam, Addfield, Grain & Milling (Perendale Publishing) among others.

Whilst export health certificates are already in place for the UK to export bovine semen, porcine semen and breeding pigs to Ukraine, a key objective was to make ground on getting export protocols in place for breeding cattle and sheep as well as sheep semen. To this end, Chris Jackson and Richard Saunders met

with Olga Shevchenko, Unit Chief for International Collaboration for the Ukrainian State Service for Food Safety & Consumer Protection to aid the ongoing work of UKECP (UK Export Certification Partnership).

Day 2 saw a series of seminars on behalf of the British-Ukrainian Business Forum to include presentations from: Dr Simon Docherty, Animal Science & Aquaculture Specialist for the UK Government's Agri-Tech organisation; Chris Jackson, UKTAG, on Livestock Breeding for Profitable Production; and Mike Button, Coventry Chemicals, on the importance of farm biosecurity ●



UK stand at Agro-Animal Show



Livestock sector representatives in Ukraine

British Simmentals Head to Azores

The largest exportation of British Simmental Cattle left on the 7 February 2017 for the Azores. The Azores is composed of nine volcanic islands in the North Atlantic Ocean about 850 miles west of continental Portugal.

The exportation consisted of consignments from Mr and Mrs Moffat, Innerwick Farm, Innerwick,

Dunbar, East Lothian East Lothian, EH42 1SE; Mr Richard McCulloch, Over Hill House, Armadale, West Lothian, EH48 3AR – managed by John Hughes; and J C McLaren & Partners, Knox House, Coldwells Road, Crieff, Perthshire, PH7 4BB – managed by Tom Henderson.

In total 13 heifers and 3 bulls were exported to the Azores with the transport and certification organised by Andrew Ewing, Dumbretton Farm, Dumfries ●



Agri-Tech seminar at Excel, London, held on 20 March 2017 during the IFE (International Food Exhibition) for the delegation of Shandong Province, China.



40 British Companies Attend VIV Asia

More than 40 UK companies exhibited at the recent VIV Asia Expo held 15-17 March 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand, with UK genetics at the forefront of the UK Pavilion.

The biennial event again took place at the BITEC exhibition centre with more than 1,000 companies present, welcoming over 60,000 visitors: decision-making professionals from around the world. UK companies reported business interest from countries that Great Britain does not traditionally exhibit in such as Australia, Cambodia, New Zealand and Saudi Arabia.

The UK stand was busy on all three days with many interesting seminars taking place throughout the event – all held on site to which UK exhibitors were able to contribute.

For this edition, the organisers arranged a 'Chinese Day' bringing a select group of 50 integrators to the UK Pavilion on Day One where Marcus Bates, Chief Executive of the British Pig Association and representative of UK TAG, the Appointed Trade Organisation responsible for the British trade presence, was able to introduce the UK industry.

Day Two saw a dedicated UK Seminar Programme in partnership with the event organisers.

With the support of AHDB (Agriculture

and Horticulture Development Board) and the British Embassy, the event supported B2B meetings with the Chinese delegation together with a successful networking reception at the British Ambassador's residence ●



UK First at Zambia Agri-Tech

The British Livestock Genetics Consortium (BLG) and AHDB (Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board) were represented at the Zambia Agri-Tech Expo from 27 to 29 April 2017.

Held in Chisamba, 80km north of the capital Lusaka, the event for the first time hosted a UK Pavilion arranged by the UK Department of International Trade (DIT) supporting Southern Africa as a Priority One Market.

It welcomed other British companies such as Perry of Oakley Ltd, Chase

Organics Ltd, Precision Decision Ltd, Lina Agro Consult Ltd/Haygrove & Agroponic Ltd.

Zambia is blessed with favourable growing conditions encompassing a warm climate, plentiful rain and good soil ideal for both cropping (maize and soya predominantly) as well as livestock production.

The dairy sector is small (15-20,000 head est) and relies heavily on imports; beef cattle, though amounting to around 2-3 million head, are largely not run as commercial units and are based heavily on native cattle of the bos indicus type. There is a smaller influence of 'beefier' genetics

from the South African Bonsmara, the composite Beefmaster (incorporating Simmental, Hereford & Shorthorn bloodlines into local breeds) as well as Simmental and Hereford whose role is as a dual-purpose – terminal and maternal – sire.

The Zambian pig industry is quite well developed with integrated units producing up to 20,000 head per year; goats – predominantly for meat rather than milk – are increasing in number thanks to government support with sheep also undergoing development – both with a focus on increased weight and conformation ●



China Animal Husbandry Expo (CAHE) & Global Pig Forum 2017



The 15th CAHE was held in Qindao 18-20 May 2017 and was preceded by the Global Pig Forum 16-17 May.

The Global Pig Forum

Held biennially, this is a technical forum attended by industry leaders and academics with this year's theme being safe food production. The British Pig Association (BPA) was invited to speak about UK pig production, its technologies and how the UK has worked to help develop the Chinese pig industry. Canada, Holland and the USA were also invited to speak along the same theme.

Addressing an audience of 500 delegates made up of industry leaders, the themes of UK excellence and willingness to do business through the Department of International Trade (DIT) and Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) were pursued.



UK stand at CAHE China

China Animal Husbandry Expo

In 2017, CAHE attracted more than 160,000 visitors to its 4 halls and 120,000m² exhibition space making this the biggest exhibition in the region. There were 1,200 exhibitors from 38 countries with international representation at over 20% for the first time.

The exhibition had also broadened its scope to cover the whole livestock chain from farm to table. Leading in importance was very much livestock breeding including pig, poultry, cattle, sheep and goat, rabbit and deer.

From the UK stand, advice was offered on many aspects of animal breeding including animal health, animal housing, feed and feed additives, feed processing, grain and raw materials, processing equipment, meat processing, packaging, refrigeration, meat products, egg products, grass and seed, media, knowledge transfer, consultancy and bio-energy ●



Chris Jackson, British Pig Association, at Global Pig Forum

UK Export to Tristan de Cunha

UK company exports bull semen to remote South Atlantic island



Red Poll Bull Fedw Stig. Tristan de Cunha

UK exports may be having a boom with extra impetus from the devalued currency, but there's one company from the south west of England whose latest shipment is quirkier than most. Cattle breeding company, UK Sire Services, has recently exported a consignment of native British bull semen to Tristan da Cunha – a tiny and remote volcanic island in the South Atlantic.

The consignment left Manchester late last year, was received in Cape Town, South Africa en route, and made the

final 1,500-mile leg of the journey by boat. From the island's tiny harbour, it was taken by tractor into secure storage.

The semen straws included were from the bulls Albany Ludlow, a pure English Hereford, owned by Les Cook & Family from Cambridge; Fedw Stig, a Red Poll owned by John Williams from Shropshire; Gear Blue Moon, an Aberdeen Angus owned by Mark Pilcher, Director of UK Sire Services; and Morlais Dewi Sant, a Welsh Black owned by Hywel Davies from near

Merthyr Tydfil.

The eclectic mix of genetics has been chosen for use on Tristan's own mostly Hereford and Angus cattle where it is hoped they will improve their productivity for both beef and milk. The native British breeds have been selected for their ability to thrive on limited supplies of grazed grass and for their ease of management in sometimes challenging situations.

Neil Swain, who works for Tristan's agriculture department, formerly studied at Harper Adams University in Shropshire and instigated the shipment, says: "We haven't had a change of breed for about eight years, so this will bring in some new blood, and we can keep some bulls from our best cows for breeding."

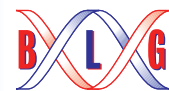
Mr Swain works with the island's only veterinary surgeon, and the two have been inseminating the island's cattle during the breeding season through January and February. He became an insemination technician during his study trip to the UK and says he is delighted to have received the semen shipment after a complex and tortuous trip of over 6,000 miles.

Rob Wills, managing director of UK Sire Services says: "We thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of exporting to such a remote part of the world, through the authorities in South Africa and then by boat to Tristan. "The fact that this is the 50th country or dependency UK Sire Services has exported to is something we are proud of as well," he says ●



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 & Livestock Exports, please contact Richard Saunders on 07901 768904 or richardsaunders1965@yahoo.co.uk