

GENETICS EXPORTS 2021

WINTER 2021

Welcome and Introduction



UK Export Certification Partnership

“The world in general has had an unsettled year again and agriculture and livestock has been much the same. However, we at Export Certification Ltd (ECL) have been hard at work with the UKECP partnership developing more export opportunities. Some have been relatively easy wins for us and industry whilst others have taken considerable time, effort and negotiation.

Much of the work has involved finalising the export certificates for South American countries and whilst each has required individual negotiation, the cumulative opportunities offered by the huge sheep breeding industry of the continent is now open.

A great win for the team was assisting with an export of Suffolk sheep from Scotland to Georgia. The lack of a Border Control Post (BCP) for ferry travel meant that the exporter (Irene Fowlie) had to arrange for air transport for the consignment of ewes and rams. This was not easy or cheap, but her perseverance paid off. What's more, the quality of the sheep has driven further interest both in more sheep and hopefully Angus cattle as well. Quality exports breeds more enquiries which is a mantra we are continually pushing within our contacts.



Irene Fowlie's Essie Suffolks head to Georgia

Eastern Europe continues to express interest in UK livestock and is a market we are fully occupied in opening with negotiations on export certificates. The region has its own difficulties when finalising these agreements, but it is not for the want of trying by both exporters, importers and the UKECP partnership. The EEU is a large trading block that is looking to our market for quality stock with Russia being high on the list of customers keen to acquire the genetics available here.

Work on extending cattle certificates also continues, however this is particularly affected at present by the absence of the ferry BCPs. Demand for UK cattle is most certainly there and for quality proven breeding stock, but it is just being slightly stalled by the transport issues at present.

There are a good number of other certificates being discussed and worked upon for countries such as Montserrat, Nepal, Turkey and Colombia and all of these will be moving along in the new year.

Finally, as we write there is excellent news coming out of the USA with the

hope of trade becoming possible for small ruminant embryos. This market has long been closed to the UK, but work between APHIS, DEFRA and UKECP amongst others may well be on the verge of paying off with the chance of opening the US market to our sheep which will be particularly good news to those with longwools and minority breeds. Agreement with the USA will certainly help move things with Canada and so yet more prospects will be possible in 2022.” ●

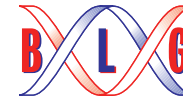


Rob Grinnall, UKECP Director

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.

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Charollais Sheep to Dominican Republic



Typical sheep and goat grazing in DR

Sub-tropical places like the Dominican Republic traditionally keep 'Hair Sheep' – breeds like the Dorper, Katahdin, Blackbelly or Pelibuey that don't on the whole need shearing and are also tough and adaptable breeds to thrive on open ranges with little human intervention.

Following an export of British Charollais semen, breeders like Helmut Bethancourt in partnership with UNEV University, have been able to carry out laparoscopic AI with the Charollais semen. Says Helmut: "Although European breeds are generally not suitable for our climate, we have had some success with Charollais F1 crossbreds and I think they definitely have a future in the development of our sheep industry locally." ●

Denizes Simmental Embryos Exported to USA



In a further international sale of British Simmental genetics, twenty-one pedigree embryos, from the Denizes herd of MA Barlow & Sons, Nr Leyland, Lancashire, have been sold and exported to the United States-based company Horizon Genetics.

In looking specifically to source Simmentals from the UK, a representative of Horizon Genetics first approached the Barlows through Facebook. Extensive discussions and exchanges of pictures followed to meet Horizon's criteria of visual appearance, bloodlines, and performance figures. The required matings were established, and the embryos thereafter collected and subsequently exported through Mark Knutsford, Celltech Embryo Transfer Ltd.



Denizes Cadette 37th



Denizes Nelly 8th

Nineteen Grade A embryos were collected and exported from the mating of the 2018 born Denizes Cadette 37th, a Kilbride Farm Delboy 12 daughter out of Denizes Cadette 28th, and the sire Ballinalare Galaxy 15. A further two Grade A embryos were exported from the mating of Denizes Nelly 8th, a Cairnview Snazzy daughter out of Denizes Nelly 5th, and sired by Brookwood Alla King. In both instances semen for the matings was supplied for the respective bulls by the Chester-based Cogent UK.

Over the course of the previous two years, Horizon Genetics have sourced a number of British Simmental bulls subsequently exported to an AI centre in Italy and with semen collections destined for distribution and use in both the USA

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Ballycreelly Livestock Seizes Export Opportunities



Ballycreelly Hampshire Down ewes

Ballycreelly Livestock, run by Kevin and Anna McCarthy just outside Comber is seizing export opportunities for ovine semen and embryo sales.

Both pedigree Hampshire Down and Beltex sheep have been produced there for over 30 years plus more recently a composite terminal sire, crossing a Beltex ram on a Hampshire Down ewe to produce a HampTex ram.

Sheep are performance-recorded to assist the selection of stock for the best commercial traits. Additionally, the flock has been managed to achieve the highest health status required to satisfy most export EHCs.

Exporting live Hampshires has been an important part of the business over the last 20 years with sheep regularly exported to France, Belgium, The

Netherlands, Spain and The Republic of Ireland.

More recently, the McCarthys have looked further afield to export markets in North and South America as well as New Zealand. The gradual opening up of South America – with new EHC agreements in Argentina and Brazil and more recently Paraguay and Chile – is particularly attractive as the Hampshire Down is seen as one of the most important terminal sires in those countries.

In 2019 they had their first success working with AB Europe with semen and embryos being sold to two farming enterprises in New Zealand. Subsequently in 2021 that business has mushroomed with more orders taken again for New Zealand but also Argentina, Brazil and Canada. Additionally, orders are currently under discussion for the US, Angola and Kenya. ●

British Genetics on the Ground in Mexico



British sheep genetics on show at Javier Lara's A&J Ranch in Mexico following imports of British Texel and British Charollais embryos

A Cambwell Texel Success in Brazil



A Texel ram carrying a full pedigree of UK genetics has set a new breed record in Brazil, selling for R\$176,000 (£23,400) at a recent sale hosted by breeder Sergio Takahashi of the Gran Reserva flock.

The ram, Gran Reserva POI-UK 814, is by UK sire Cambwell Belter and out of an embryo-bred dam by Teiglum Vision and out of a Wealden dam by High Weald Tungsten Tiger.

A gimmer, Gran Reserva POI-UK-TE 674, by Claybury Regatta and out of a Cambwell Trademark daughter is also understood to have set a new female record for the breed in Brazil.

British genetics were in demand throughout the sale which resulted in a new Brazilian record average of more than £3000. ●



British genetics were prominent throughout the sale

NSA Export Webinar

2 February 2022



Sheep breeds abroad – serving the international demand for UK sheep genetics is the theme of a National Sheep Association Breakfast Club webinar on Wednesday 2 February, starting at 08.15, running until 09.45. Its aim is to give NSA Members insight into the various activities and work being done on an international basis to meet the increasing demand for UK sheep genetics. ●

To register your interest, please see www.nationalsheep.org.uk

Chinese 'First' at National Pig Awards



Julia James accepting her award at the National Pig Awards ceremony

Julia James from Larkmead Veterinary Group in Oxfordshire received a Special Achievement Award at November's National Pig Awards for her work in overseeing the export of breeding pigs to China. This was the first time the UK accomplished a remote supervision of quarantine with the Chinese, a demanding but necessary role to secure substantial future business. The total number of pigs shipped from the UK to China under this new system is 2,700 head with a total value including technical support agreements and royalties in excess of £12.5M.

Thanks to Julia's professionalism and dedication we now have a new system for the supervision of export quarantines that we hope will survive the pandemic and save exporters and importers time and money. Many other countries such as Russia and Mexico have similar requirements and we hope that this system can be applied universally. ●

South America Sheep Strategy

Update from our team in South America

Consultants Denise Crawshaw Pellin and Daniel Benitez Ojeda, based in Brazil, continue to develop the market for British Sheep Genetics in both Mexico and the South American region. Focusing on Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Colombia, Argentina and Uruguay, the target breeds have been identified as Texel, Suffolk, Dorset and Hampshire Down.



Daniel Benitez (right) pictured with the Hampshire Down Champion at the Agro Expo, Bogota, Colombia. Trophy offered by the UK Hampshire Down Society and UKTAG

The strategy is to build a network of public and private institutions, producer associations/ co-operatives and individual producers with the purpose of transferring science, technology and knowledge linked to the British meat sheep production chain, prioritising – but not limited to – the import of genetic material (semen and embryos).

Since April 2020, a total of eighteen meetings have been held attended by Breed Societies (both UK and their overseas counterparts), UKTAG, British

Livestock Genetics Consortium, UKECP, NSA, AB Europe and Signet. A number of technical visits and presentations took place both in-person and virtually with the support of British Embassies.

Restrictions allowing, we are taking aim at organising an Inward Mission of South American breeders in and around the NSA Sheep Event in Malvern on 27 July 2022. ●



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First Pig Export to Congo

Genesis ships the first swine breeding stock from the UK to The Republic of the Congo



Following an initial enquiry in April 2018 from Big Dutchman International of Vechta, Germany, Genesis was able to supply the breeding stock for a 100-sow farm turn-key project. To enable this shipment to go ahead, the UK Export Certification Partnership, dedicated to securing market access for UK meat and livestock products, began a negotiation with the Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture for the Republic of the Congo.

Gilders, airfreight managed by INTRADCO with Big Dutchman staff and their customer PEAC on hand to receive the pigs once off-loaded. ●



October 2021 saw the despatch of 108 head of genetic breeding stock to Maya-Maya Airport, Brazzaville, Republic Of The Congo for this green field site farm. F1 and Landrace GP gilts were supplied by Genesis UK in Cornwall with the Yorkshire and Duroc boars sourced from Bridge House Farm in Northamptonshire. Transport from farm to airport was carried out by



Rob Wills Receives Award

In October, Rob Wills, Director of UK Sire Services, was appointed an Associate of the Royal Agricultural Societies (ARAgS) at a ceremony held at the House of Lords.

These Awards recognise personal achievement in a professional capacity and recipients are frequently individuals of influence within Agriculture. They range from practical farmers to academics, company directors, media practitioners, administrators, advisors and consultants. Rob has journeyed from being a thirteenth-generation Dartmoor farmer to setting up and developing a successful British genetics business, to date having supplied semen from over fifty breeds to fifty-two countries in the world.

Rob Wills established UK Sire Services in the wake of the FMD storm which played an important role in helping the UK cattle sector's breeding and export functions. He also played a major part in setting up the pan-industry body the British Livestock Genetics Consortium. ●

Rob Wills pictured receiving his Award from Lord Taylor of Holbeach



British Farming Awards – Sheep Innovator of the Year

Matt Harding of Lodge Farm, Atterton, Warks took the Sheep Innovator of the Year award at the 2021 British Farming Awards held at the NEC in October. Through a combination of incorporating different genetics and utilising technologies, the Harding Family has been able to continue to compete in a competitive ram selling marketplace over many years.

Suffolks have been at the heart of the

enterprise for more than 60 years and with a desire to continue to compete in the breed and also with other breeds came the drive to look at genetics and how these could be improved.

Alongside performance recording, which has been carried out with Signet for almost 40 years, the decision was made to introduce some New Zealand genetics into the Suffolks to improve functional traits, including clean back

ends, ease of lambing and lamb vigour.

In collaboration with Innovis, Suffolk ewes were flushed to specific Charollais rams to start a composite Aberblack flock. Ewe numbers now stand at 150 pedigree Suffolks, 170 Aberblacks and a nucleus flock of 100 Aberfields. There is a good demand for females, particularly from Europe, with 15-20 exported most years. ●



Matt Harding receiving his award

New Website Launched

This new 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. ●



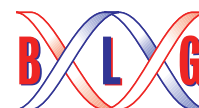
Agritech UK

WWW.AGRITECH-UK.ORG

Selected Overseas Expos 2022

Event Name	City	Country	Date
VIV Asia	Bangkok	Thailand	12-14 January
Agros Expo	Moscow	Russia	25-27 January
EuroTier Middle East	Abu Dhabi	UAE	21-23 March
IlDEX	Ho Chi Minh City	Vietnam	3-5 August
Ploughing Match	Ratheniska	Ireland	20-22 September
Sommet de l'Élevage	Clermont Ferrand	France	4-7 October
EuroTier	Hannover	Germany	15-18 November

For further details and information on funding opportunities please email UKTAG's Chris Jackson exports@uktag.co.uk or see www.britishlivestockgenetics.com



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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