

GENETICS EXPORTS 2018

WINTER 2018

Welcome and Introduction

Looking ahead to Exports 2019-2020

Welcome to the Winter 2018 edition of the Genetics and Livestock Exports Bulletin highlighting activities being undertaken to support the UK breeding sector in developing export trade.

With Brexit – in whatever form – just around the corner, never has it been so important for industry to explore new avenues abroad. Through 2019-20 therefore, promotion of British livestock and genetics in target markets will continue by means of Inward Missions and Overseas Expos with the support of the levy board AHDB, British Livestock Genetics Consortium (BLG), Department of International Trade (DIT) and UK Export Certification Partnership (UKECP).

To be involved in these activities, most of which have grant support through the Trade Access Programme (TAP) and are listed in the Overseas Expos section, please do get in touch.



British Agri Companies at EuroTier

The world's largest indoor livestock exhibition, EuroTier, held 13-16 November 2018 in Hannover, Germany saw a strong British Livestock presence during the four-day show. Twenty UK companies from the animal breeding, genetics and export sectors joined together with the support of the Department of International Trade (DIT), the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), British Livestock Genetics Consortium (BLG) and UK Technology for Agriculture & Genetics (UKTAG).

Held biennially, EuroTier boasts 150,000+ visitors and over 2,300 exhibitors – half of whom are international companies – and, as such, a strong UK presence at EuroTier

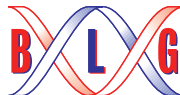
allows British farming and breeding organisations to promote themselves on the global stage.

With both British Charollais and Lleyn sheep being exhibited, the British stand drew a large number of visitors and many useful enquiries for breeding animals and germplasm – not only from the EU 27 but also further afield from countries such as China, Russia, Mongolia, Turkey and Iran. With the number of Export Health Certificates steadily growing, thanks to the work of the UK Export Certification Partnership (UKECP), these enquiries help to facilitate trade with a 'push-and-pull' approach towards agreeing export protocols between the UK and other countries ●



From left to right: Richard Saunders, Seamus Killen, Juergen Lueckhoff, Ingo Stoll, Dr Christiane Profitlich and Hartmut Glamann

British Charollais Team:
Charles Sercombe, Robert Gregory,
Carroll and Jonathan Barber



Thanks are extended to the following exhibitors:

Addfield
Ballintur Lleyns
Ballycreely Hampshire Flock
British Charollais Sheep Society
British Livestock Genetics Consortium
British Pig Association
Ceres Solutions
Dalby Charollais Flock
Delta Wagyu
Edstaston Charollais Flock
Eggs-Port Ltd
EnviroSystems UK
Farmgene Ltd
Hampshire Down Sheep Breeders Association
Hoofcount
HW Oultram
Prognostix
UK Sheep Genetics
UK Genetics
UK Sire Services
UKTAG

British Livestock Presence at Irish Ploughing Match • 18-20 September 2018



for follow up after the event.

Visitors to the Ploughing are drawn from every corner of the island of Ireland, in addition to strong international visitor support; the event attracts over 1,700 trade exhibitors, covering all aspect of rural life. This was in addition to over 250 acres of competition

ploughing - from the most modern and biggest reversibles to horses and vintage classes, with 300 competitors taking part.

Attendance at the event clearly demonstrated the great respect there is in Ireland for the quality of British beef and sheep genetics, with weighty Breed Years Books being highly sought after. Trade uncertainties caused by Brexit were obviously a great worry to many, as Irish livestock farmers truly value a continued, frictionless, two-way trade with the UK; this point being made many times on the stand during the event. Another British institution which was very obviously respected and valued was the BBC's 'Countryfile' programme with Adam Henson being looked on as a much-respected ambassador for the UK livestock industry.

Optimism was high on Tuesday morning at the opening of the 'British Livestock Genetics' stand, well-positioned in the middle of the livestock area, yet the show field was pounded by Storm Ali's 120 mph gales on the following night! In spite of this, the indomitable Irish spirit shone through to make this, the 87th event, a true success with attendance over the three-day show held 18-20 September at more than 240,000.

The opening day, being strongly business dominated, saw tremendous interest being shown in the literature from 23 British Beef and 10 Sheep Breeds which was on display, with well over 60% being snapped up by the close of play that evening. The majority of the remaining information being in strong demand on the Thursday, with a substantial number of requests for further breed information being noted,

This, the 87th Irish National Ploughing Championships, was held near Tullamore, about 60 miles due west of Dublin, in the heart of the Irish Midlands. The stand was organised in conjunction with the British Livestock Genetics Consortium (BLG) and the export department of AHDB – Beef and Lamb. The objective of the British presence at Ireland's premier agricultural event being to raise the profile of quality British livestock genetics and to generate trade.

The stand was organised on behalf of BLG by John Fleming of JF Professional Genetic Services ably supported by Gill Evans, an experienced pedigree breeder of many years standing. Following three years at the Tullamore site, the 88th event is due to be moved to a centrally-located site at Fenagh in Co Carlow to take place 17-19 September 2019 ●



Semenstore Exports

A batch of 25 straws from the British Limousin bull Ampertaine Gigolo have been exported to Rinderzucht Schleswig-Holstein in Germany. A tremendous bull who has made a mark in Limousin breeding, Gigolo is the sire of the £147,000 world record priced Limousin bull Trueman Jagger who was sold at Carlisle in October 2015. Carrying tremendous performance figures, Gigolo is in the top 1% of recorded animals for 200 and 400 day weight plus a top 1% Beef Value ●



semenstore.co.uk
quality semen on-line

See www.semenstore.co.uk

Texels Head to Switzerland

In August, 10 Vorn Texel females plus two rams left the 'arid desert' of John Vaughan's farm in Bodenham, Herefordshire for the lush green pastures of Heinz Pluess' farm in Switzerland. The export was coordinated by Sylvia Rawlings ●



GREAT Britain Programme Targets Brazil

The Expolnter Show held 25th August to 2nd September 2018 in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul in SE Brazil continued the UK's focus on promoting its agriculture sector to Latin America as part of the 'Britain is GREAT' campaign.

With over 2,000 exhibitors and some 400,000 visitors, the 41st edition of Expolnter gathered together the major cattle and sheep breeds, veterinary products and technologies, government, academia and research institutes, machinery and equipment together with farmers and farming cooperatives.

A vast and impressive show, Expolnter reflects the important part agriculture plays within the life and economy of Brazil whose farming sector accounts for around 45% of the country's total exports and makes up approximately 6% of GDP. Brazil comprises some 210 million cattle of which around 20-25 million are dairy. Sheep and goats number 26 million with 39 million pigs and 1.2 billion poultry. With the support of a commercially focused and well-organised team from the Department of International Trade (DIT), progress was made towards securing future livestock and genetics export business

for the UK to capitalise not only on the demand for British-bred breeding stock but on the favourable Export Health Certificate (EHC) conditions to reinforce the work of the UK Export Certification Partnership (UKECP).

On the ovine side, there was strong interest for British sheep with particular focus on Hampshires, Suffolks, Romneys as well as British Texels

Following a useful Sheep Breeders Round Table, further visits were made

least one group of Brazilian farmers to visit the UK next Spring/Summer to select rams for semen collection.

From a cattle perspective, the main breed focus is on Angus, Hereford and North Devon with some interest in Charolais, Limousin and Wagyu. Bos indicus type cattle such as Nelore and Brahman play a significant role both as purebreds and for crossbreeding for hybrid vigour, climate adaptability as well as disease and parasite (especially ticks) resistance.

Attending the Show was Ruth Perry who runs a pedigree Aberdeen Angus Herd numbering 20 cows near Reading which produces bulls for the suckler herd she also manages. Comprising 500 breeding cows, the Kent-based suckler herd supplies Angus-sired animals to Dovecote Park. Ruth, 24, is spending six months in South America working on farms and has been helped with some financial support from the Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society by dint of her winning an Angus Youth scholarship •



Ruth Perry (the sign says 'I Love Angus')

to the sheep lines with discussions culminating in a commitment for at



Clockwise: Richard Saunders with Brazilian Hampshire Down Breeders, Angus Grand Champion and Hereford Judging



British Agriculture on Show at Agro Futuro, Colombia

EXPO
AGROFUTURO



UK-Colombia Team at Agro Futuro

A strong UK presence at Agro Futuro, Bogota, Colombia 22-24 August 2018 was made possible with support from the Department of International Trade (DIT), UK-Colombia Trade, the British Embassy and the UK-Colombia Prosperity Fund.

This well-structured, indoor technical show plays host to some 450 exhibitors and 25,000 visitors over three days. British companies present included AgriCompas, Environment Systems, Agritech World, Catapult Satellite Applications, Russell IPM, Stable,

Fera, EcoStim, Delta Wagyu, Triage and the British Livestock Genetics Consortium.

On the livestock front, some useful contacts were made at breeder, AI company and importantly at Ministry (ICA is Defra's in-country equivalent), DIT and UK-Colombia Prosperity Fund level to help ease future business and certification. Overall, there was good interest in British-bred cattle and genetics (an Export Health Certificate – EHC – is in place for bovine semen) with some demand also for sheep and pigs ●

Mike Adams in Mexico



Mike Adams (right) pictured with Javier Lara (left) President of the Mexican Sheep Association who attended the UK Sheep Event in July

Lleyns to Germany

Following on from the Inward Mission of German farmers to the NSA Sheep Event in July, contact was made between Heike Griem and Lleyn breeder Wally McCurdie, Bondon Farm, Birdingbury, Rugby with 18 ram lambs then heading in October to Germany near Boizenburg on the River Elbe where Heike runs a flock of 1,800 ewes. Lleyns will fit nicely into her system as well as producing milky females as replacements ●



Export Formalities

In a fast-moving scenario, what is written now may not be the case when you come to read it, writes Henry Lewis, Director of UK Export Certification Partnership!

Government departments have been undertaking considerable preparation for the various Brexit positions and official websites are filling with briefings. The Department for International Trade (DIT) recently put out an explanatory summary – see <https://brexitdealexplained.campaign.gov.uk/> In a 'no-deal' situation, key points come from HMRC, listed in its Partnership Pack – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/partnership-pack-preparing-for-a-no-deal-eu-exit>.

Defra and its operational branch APHA have undertaken massive investment in arrangements for imports and exports and this is the link and information that potential exporters should read first – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/exporting-animals-and-animal-products-if-theres-no-brexite-deal/exporting-animals-and-animal-products-if-theres-no-brexite-deal>

Notwithstanding these plans, we advise anyone with planned or contracted export orders for livestock or germplasm to try to get them away before 29 March 2019. Much is yet to happen. However, we do know that this has been a good year for adding to the list of export destinations for UK genetics. There are Export Health Certificates (EHCs) for cattle semen and embryos to many markets, as there are for key porcine markets. In the last year or two there has been some focus on gaining greater market access for sheep and goat germplasm. Fairly recently Chile, New Zealand and USA (amongst others) agreed EHCs; this year has seen a further extension into Latin America with Brazil ovine embryos and semen; together with embryo EHCs for the Dominican Republic and Mexico amongst others.

You can always look up specimen EHCs and their accompanying Notes for Guidance on the UK Export Certification Partnership's website – www.ukecp.com with new and revised EHCs signalled by Tweets.

For unlisted countries there may be political and other obstacles but we are always keen to help seek certification for commercially valuable exports contact admin@ukecp.com ●



Essie Suffolks to Romania



Having sent her Essie Suffolk sheep to Romania for the British Livestock stand at Indagra in 2017, breeder Irene Fowlie has continued her export successes.

Pictured left are two shearling rams bought at Kelso and heading to Magyari Szabolcs. Another buyer, Adrian Acsinte, who attended the Inward Mission to the NSA Sheep

Event in 2018, has recently taken receipt of both females and rams which are pictured (right) on the day they arrived in Romania ●

Agra Innovate 2018, Lagos, Nigeria, 27-28 November



Jane Mathews, Chairman of the Oxford Sandy & Black Pig Society writes: Agra Innovate 2018 was the first foray into Lagos, Nigeria by UK Tag/British Pig Association. The interest in UK agriculture and livestock was overwhelming – the stand was constantly several people deep all wanting information about our agriculture industry and livestock. There was particular interest in AI for pigs as there are already Large Whites, British Landrace and Duroc breeds in West Africa and so improving these pigs with semen from the UK was something that appealed. There was also interest in importing live pigs and discussions about groups of farmers getting together to purchase pigs and frozen semen to use on their

sows, as well as nutrition and worming regimes, making enclosures and African Swine Fever. In addition to this we had a great many enquiries regarding cattle (dairy and beef), sheep and goats – in particular how well would animals from the UK adapt to conditions in Nigeria which are typically hot, humid and rainy for a large part of the year. There were also requests for training. It was refreshing to hear such enthusiasm for farming and to see that the Nigerian Government is actively encouraging young people into agriculture, recognising the importance of being able to feed the people of West Africa ●



Representatives of the UK Pig Sector in Nigeria

Export Aware



The British Cattle Breeders' Conference at Telford in January 2019 will have various inputs to update the livestock and germplasm sector on export matters in the pre-Brexit build up: a Workshop session on Monday 21 at 4pm; a paper by AHDB's Export Manager Jonathan Eckley at 3.20pm on Tuesday 22 and the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer Christine Middlemiss speaking on Wednesday 23 at 9.05am ●

For more see www.cattlebreeders.org.uk

Insight into Sheep in China

In September, Kevin Harrison, National Sheep Association English Committee Chairman visited China in conjunction with UKTAG with the aim to get on the ground and understand what demands there are from Chinese sheep farmers to use genetics to improve their flocks.

Farm visits

“My visit had two parts to it, one was to meet leading figures in the Chinese Sheep Association including a visit to a farm and the other was to attend the VIV China Feed-to-Food trade show and make contact with Chinese sheep farmers to discuss what interest and understanding they had in British sheep breeds, genetics, embryos and consultancy.

The farm I visited was nothing like I imagined. Qianbaomuye had 50,000 ewes of the Hu breed - a very prolific Chinese traditional breed. All animals were kept indoors on slats with lambing taking place three times in two years. Average litter size was about 2.5 to 3 with weaning dates and carcass weights similar to ours. All the ewes were artificially inseminated. They were fed a TMR ration using forage and proteins from around the area. Accommodating a research and development centre, the farm was also open to the public promoting a full farm to fork experience with on-farm quality standards and slaughter house.



Qianbaomuye Farm



Delegates at the International Symposium

I made some excellent contacts at the VIV China trade show and the progressive sheep businesses seem very keen to explore genetic improvements.”

November conference

Kevin returned in November to speak at the 2018 International Symposium on Chinese Sheep Industry Development, a two-day conference including speakers from New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, USA.

“Over 200 sheep farmers, government officials and meat marketers attended the conference and heard my presentation on ‘British Sheep Production from Farm to Fork’ covering topics including breed selection, genetic improvement, genetic selection, lamb grading, lamb consumption in the UK, consumer demands, PGI, farm assurance standards and provenance.

Whilst there we were treated to two

farm visits. Both were running breeding programmes. The first farm we visited was doing excellent work creating crossbreeds using the local Chinese Hu breed and was experimenting with terminal sires like the Australian White and the Dorper and then trying to stabilise the cross breed. These were then sent to some of their other farms including one in Inner Mongolia to see how they performed. On this particular farm there were 11,000 sheep of which

6,000 were breeding ewes all kept indoors on slats. The total farm size was 35 hectares. Forage was bought in. The farm had its own laboratories for AI and embryo transfer and at the time of our visit had 20,000 embryos on-site and 13,000 straws of semen. This farm was a real eye-opener to the standard the top Chinese sheep businesses are now running at. Nearly everything that they were doing breed-wise and tech-wise would have been highly influenced from New Zealand and Australia.

The second farm visit was to an Animal Husbandry Company, this farm was a multiplier site just solely producing Hu sheep for selling on as breeding stock such is the high demand for this fat tailed, prolific, domesticated sheep. They had 60,000 Hu all kept indoors on bamboo slats all on a TMR ration.

On my return back to Beijing I was lucky enough to spend an hour visiting The Great Wall of China. A historical reminder of the efforts the Chinese have gone to to protect their borders and trade. It would be great if some of these “mega farms” had the opportunity to try our genetics straight from the UK but for the moment we can only imagine what the impact could be on our sheep industry if we had access to China. There are many people working hard behind the scenes to open up the trade doors for British sheep genetics. It will take time but it is moving in the right direction. We just need to concentrate on keeping our industry world class in animal health, food security and traceability” ●

UK Pigs in Demand in India

The British presence at Agro-Tech, Chandigarh, India 1-4 December 2018 included a well-attended UK Pig Seminar with Marcus Bates of the British Pig Association (BPA). Also pictured at the Innovative Pig Breeding Centre, Nabha, Punjab are AI progeny from UK frozen pig semen.

British Pig Association Chief Executive, Marcus Bates, comments: "India's pig population is more than twice that of the UK and yet the Indian Council for Agricultural Research estimates that production needs to increase threefold to meet demand. With hardly any imports of breeding stock in the last 20 years, Indian farmers recognise the need for new genetics to overcome problems of inbreeding. From the Punjab in the North West to Meghalaya in the far North East on the border with Myanmar, farmers want to have access to new genetics to boost profitability" ●



Marcus Bates with Professor Uppal, and Dipankar Chakraborty of British Deputy High Commission Chandigarh

Selected Overseas Expos 2019

- *12-19 January • National Western Stock Show • Denver • USA
- *19-21 February • Agro Spring • Kiev • Ukraine
- *13-15 March • VIV Asia • Bangkok • Thailand
- *18 May • CAHE • China
- *15 June • China Dairy Expo • China
- *26 June • Livestock Philippines • Philippines

*TAP grant funding available for eligible companies

For further details and information on possible funding opportunities please email richardsaunders1965@yahoo.co.uk or exports@uktag.co.uk



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

