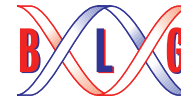


GENETICS EXPORTS 2022

WINTER 2022

AHDB

EXPORTS



UK TAG

FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH KAZAKHSTAN SIGNED



Wednesday 30 November saw more good news for the UK livestock industry with the formal signing of an agreement at the House of Lords in Westminster between UK and Kazakh representatives.

Brokered by the UK Export Certification Partnership (UKECP) with Defra, the Kazakh Ministry and the British Embassy in Nur Sultan, a cattle contract for Aberdeen-Angus semen was signed between UK Sire Services' Rob Wills and the Secretary of the Kazakh Angus Chamber Dauren Salykov overseen by the influential British Trade Envoy Baroness Nicholson. The aim of the partnership is to now continue to push on with accessing the sheep market within Kazakhstan where UK genetics can be used in a similar way to that of the Angus within the cattle industry there, improving the carcass quality, the speed of production and overall margin for the farmers.

Kazakhstan has over the last 12 years imported some 72,000 Angus from many countries, but the UK has been closed to them. Kazakhstan is the world's ninth largest country and has huge opportunity for grazing livestock, but in addition it has numerous climate regions making it possible to supply each with different

breeds which can make best use of their environment.

UKECP's Rob Grinnall, who had previously visited Kazakhstan to assist with this work, said: "We are delighted with the co-operation that has made today possible and we hope it is just the beginning of a long-standing trade relationship, not only with Kazakhstan but also with other countries within the region."

Representatives at the signing ceremony (pictured) included Baroness Nicholson, Marcus Bates (UKECP), Rob Grinnall (UKTAG/UKECP), Phil Stocker (NSA), Rob Wills (UK Sires), Dr Elizabeth Warham (Department of International Trade), Robert Whitcombe (Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society), Bhavisha Patel (Veterinary Trade Facilitator), Helena Diffey and Michael McDermott (both Defra). ●

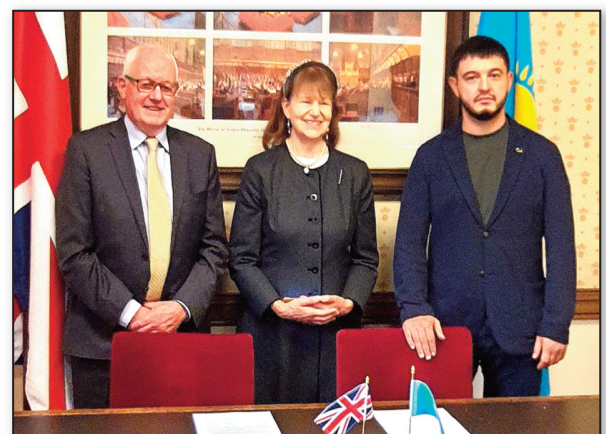
Baroness Nicholson (Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Kazakhstan) pictured with Rob Wills (UK Sires) and Dauren Salykov (Kazakh Angus Chamber)

Welcome and Introduction

The British Livestock industry has seen some positive export news recently on both the cattle and sheep fronts. 30 November saw a contract signed at the House of Lords between the UK and Kazakhstan for Aberdeen-Angus cattle semen to go to Kazakhstan, see full report opposite, following a number of inward and outward missions to expedite trade.

On the sheep side, the USA is now open to sheep embryos following years of work on both sides of The Pond – again, full report and opinion opposite.

Already in position in China and The Gulf, a new team of Agri-Food Attaches are set to take up posts in other key regions during 2023 thanks to a joint Defra-AHDB initiative.



US ACCESS TO UK OVINE EMBRYO GENETICS



Following the recent breakthrough in Anglo-American trade, US-based Agricultural Consultant John Wilkes gives his thoughts:

On 7 November 2022, a US export health certificate was published for UK ovine embryos. Such access for UK sheep breeders has potential export value forecast at £1.17 million in its first year.

The new health certificate is the result of efforts by NSA, AHDB and the UK Export Certificate Partnership – retired UKECP Director Henry Lewis having pursued UK embryo access for 20+ years.



Dr Matthew and Courtney Rolleston, Rolleston Veterinary Services

According to Dr Matt Rolleston, Maine-based Veterinarian and US livestock reproductive specialist, US breeders hope to follow the new UK embryo import regulations. Rolleston explained, “US breeders are looking for an interpretation of the health chart. “An experienced importer of UK ovine genetics, he has to-date imported 8,000 straws of UK sheep semen for his own Bluefaced Leicester and Scottish Blackface flocks as well as genetics for US clients.

Since 7 November, Dr Rolleston has received countless expressions of interest. He offers advice to would-be importers and exporters across a range of breeds. He said: “The most surprising thing is the number of UK breeders that

have been in contact looking to match connections on the US side to be able to use our services to store and redistribute embryos. Some look for cost-sharing to put their embryos in front of US breeders.”

In this short period of time, enquires have been made for various breeds that currently exist in the US including Texel, Suffolk, Scottish Blackface, Bluefaced Leicester, Teeswater, Wensleydale, Kerry Hill and South Country Cheviot. Imported UK embryos will provide opportunity to establish breeds not yet present in the US including: Dutch Spotted, Charollais and Lleyln.

In the first year, Dr Rolleston anticipates 2,000 embryos worth approximately £380 each to head to the US from the UK sheep industry both commercial and heritage, with earnings estimated at £750,000 for UK sheep breeders. “I personally believe the commercial embryos at £335-£420 would lead to larger volume buy-ins on the US side leading to breeders buying higher numbers.”

He added: “High dollar value embryos which could reach £1,700 each will be for the Swiss Valais Blacknose (SVB); we need to differentiate that. “It is a ‘novelty’ sheep breed and very popular. Pedigree SVB US females sell for £20,000-£25,000.

Rolleston said: “We’re bringing 400 (embryos) from New Zealand each year so I’ve no reason to believe this will not swap to UK embryos.” These New Zealand embryos derive from UK SVB embryo genetics exported to New Zealand with resultant animals then eligible for embryo collection at 12 months of age for the US market.

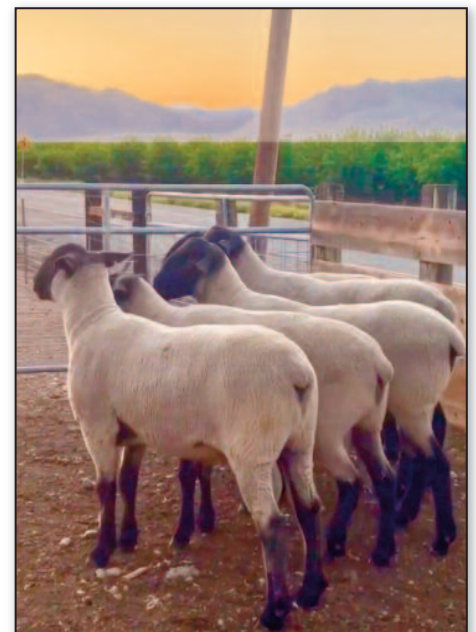
Dr Rolleston added, “80 UK Valais Blacknose donor ewes are already lined up to flush for the US, so 250 to 300 embryos to export is a pretty reasonable guess. “A quantity of 250 embryos is valued at approximately £425,000. He contends that US heritage breeds of UK



John Wilkes pictured at Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival

origin could initially form a substantive part of the UK/US embryo trade. Many are fine-wooled breeds which make them popular to a growing US home and small-scale fibre manufacturing sector. This is significant and likely to encourage imports of embryos to bolster often meagre gene pools of traditional UK origin wool breeds.

Currently there are no pedigree Charollais sheep in the US. Now there will be an opportunity to establish the breed. Canada and Mexico have increasing numbers of UK Charollais sheep with rams used for prime lamb production. These flocks were established by genetic imports. In the US, the average lamb carcass weight is 30kg – by producing a smaller meatier carcass of 20kg for a burgeoning ethnic US market, UK terminal sires such as Texel and Suffolk also have potential. ●



California-based Kaos Sheep Outfit – Suffolk yearling rams. Flock features UK Bentley Suffolk genetics

continued on next page

US ACCESS TO UK OVINE EMBRYO GENETICS

Useful information in exporting embryos to USA

Exporting Embryos to the USA



Dear Pedigree Breeder
 An exciting new export market has opened to British pedigree breeders - exporting embryos to the USA.

You may already have had interest from farmers in the USA, these notes will assist you in deciding if your sheep are able to participate in this opportunity. It is vital that you work closely with your vet to ensure that your sheep meet the health requirements.

We have strong interest in Texel, Charollais, Teeswater, Kerry Hill, Valais, Blue Faced Leicester, Cheviot, Blackface, Dutch Spotted.

If you are interested in participating in this opportunity please read carefully the notes below, then call Ian or Abi to discuss further.

FLOCK HEALTH CLEARANCE
 The flocks the rams and ewes have resided in must not have had cases of:

- TB - 2 years
- Brucellosis - 2 years
- MV and CAE - 3 years
- EAE - 1 year
- Scrapie

SCHMALLEMBERG VIRUS
 The ewes and rams must be negative to the Schmallenberg VNT both before AND after collection.

SCRAPIE
 If your flock is NOT scrapie monitored, the embryos must be genotype ARR/ARR or ARR/ARQ which means that one parent must be ARR/ARR.

If your flock is 3 years or more scrapie monitored then the embryos can be of any genotype.

The holdings on which the rams and ewes have resided since birth need to be officially declared scrapie free by APHA. This is a simple task if the sheep were born in Great Britain but can be difficult if they were born in a foreign country. So the obvious candidates are ewes and rams born in Britain.

Contact Abi or Ian if any of your donor rams or ewes were NOT born in Great Britain.

ISOLATION
 Isolation (60 days prior to embryo collection) can take place on your farm, the specifications of the isolation premises and the rules governing its operation are attached.

The USA breeding season is from September - November so embryos need to be collected by June 2023. Book in asap as space is limited.

Farmgene Ltd, Ensdon House, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1EJ
 Email: enquiries@farmgene.com Tel: +447813 010386



Some of Dr Rolleston's Bluefaced Leicester lambs bred with imported genetics from Auchry Pedigree Livestock, Turriff



EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE (EHC) UPDATE



Recently agreed export health certificates for breeding stock and genetics.

- Bovine semen – Algeria, Barbados, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Rwanda, Sierra Leone
- Bovine embryos – Chile, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia
- Caprine semen – Brazil
- Goats for breeding – Nepal, Nigeria
- Pigs for breeding – Republic of Congo, Rwanda
- Porcine semen – North Macedonia, Republic of Congo, Venezuela

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

Marcus Bates, Chief Executive of the British Pig Association and Director of UKECP writes:

PIG UPDATE

“At a recent Pig Industry International Trade discussion panel with Minister Mark Spencer & Shadow Minister Daniel Zeichner, the point was made very firmly that the UK livestock and genetics industry should play a key role in the reconstruction of the Livestock Sector in Ukraine. A recent seminar at EuroTier brought home the full extent of the devastation the war has brought to Ukraine’s livestock farmers.

Reconstruction will be on a much larger scale that that required in the Balkans in the 1990s and yet as things stand the UK livestock sector would be unable to support these efforts as we still have no border control post in place to export any livestock, cattle, pigs, sheep or goats. The UK has been one of Ukraine’s leading supporters during the war so also needs to be able to help rebuild the peace.” ●



STRONG BRITISH LIVESTOCK PRESENCE AT EUROTIER

15-18 November, Hannover, Germany



A busy stand at EuroTier

The British Livestock stand at the world's leading indoor agricultural expo, EuroTier, garnered an extremely encouraging level of interest and positive support from the UK breeding sector at the biennial Hannover, Germany event.



Despite the ongoing absence of a Border Control Post (BCP) required for export of live animals since Brexit, exhibitors were able to take enquiries for semen and embryos as well as forge relationships with current and potential customers and suppliers. After a gap of

four years, EuroTier returned with over 1,800 exhibitors from 57 countries; more than 106,000 visitors from 141 countries toured the 14 halls over the four days.

The UK stand was busy throughout and benefited from the presence of the following organisations: Hereford Cattle Society, UK Sire Services, Ballintur Lleyns, Farmgene, British Wagyu, Wyndford Wagyu, British Limousin Cattle Society, National Beef Association, Suffolk Sheep Society, Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society, Scawfell Genetics, British Pig Association, UKTAG and UK Export Certification Partnership (UKECP) with additional funding provided by AHDB.

Stand Managers were Richard Saunders on behalf of the British Livestock Genetics Consortium and vet Rob Grinnall representing UKECP. Commenting, Rob Grinnall said: "Interest in British Livestock either through semen or live animals remains high at EuroTier, and it is frustrating that the importers are thwarted by the lack of a sea-based BCP; especially when one sees the huge demand for sheep genetics via embryos which has begun in the USA following the recent agreement of their

EHC. Nevertheless, EuroTier is an amazing exhibition at which to be present and to represent the British Industry."

Barrie Turner, Chief Executive and Breed Secretary of the Suffolk Sheep Society said: "I was really pleased with the effort put in to organise the stand and facilitate EuroTier and felt that it was extremely worthwhile attending." James Hazard of Scawfell Genetics added: "The organisation was excellent in terms of both the event build-up and stand management. It was very much appreciated and nice to be involved." ●



The EuroTier team

BREEDING SHEEP TO EU

Whilst there is still no progress on a live animal BCP (Border Control Post) at Calais, or at any other port across the English Channel, a significant shipment of live breeding sheep, from a collective of farms, were moved from Great Britain and Northern Ireland (NI) to the EU mainland at the end of November, travelling via Cairnryan to Larne in NI, which acted as a live animal BCP into the EU. From there the consignment travelled via Southern Ireland and from Rosslare to Cherbourg, before going on to Hungary.



Charollais rams

Carroll Barber of the Charollais Sheep Society facilitated the movement of 50 sheep, a mixture of Charollais, Suffolk, Texel & Hampshire Down from six flocks across England and Scotland which were joined by Hampshire Downs in NI.

Frustrated by the lack of a BCP in Northern Europe post-Brexit, there is nevertheless strong demand for UK sheep genetics following a determined marketing effort by flock owners at exhibitions and shows in Europe. Further consignments are expected for early

2023. The BCP issue is finally getting some traction in Defra with the ambition to establish a multi-species BCP to allow trade across the English Channel and/or the North Sea with a solution urgently needed. ●

AB EUROPE TO NORWAY



Two members of the AB Europe team travelled to Norway recently to transfer embryos. They arrived in the Stavanger area to implant frozen UK Beltex and Texel embryos and was rewarding for the same team to follow these embryos on their journey as they originally froze them for

export at the AB Europe centre. Brexit has put a stop to live exports so importing frozen embryos and AB's transfer programme has been a great advantage to Norwegian farmers who are now looking forward to seeing these lambs on the ground next year. ●

LATAM CONTACTS

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WhatsApp : + 55 83 998077393

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

VIV ASIA OPPORTUNITY • 8–10 March 2023



VIV Asia is the biggest and most complete feed-to-food event in Asia, dedicated to the world of livestock production, animal husbandry and all related sectors from feed production to animal farming, breeding, veterinary, animal health solutions, meat, fish,

eggs and dairy products. Taking place in Bangkok, Thailand 8-10 March 2023, there will be a British Pavilion funded by UK Government. Please contact UKTAG's Chris Jackson if you would like details on exhibiting, exports@uktag.co.uk ●

POSITIVE SIGNALS FROM AHDB

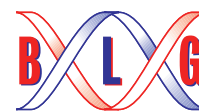


As a result of the 'Shape the Future' consultation, all future work in the Beef and Lamb sector will be expected to protect or promote the reputation of the sector, either directly or indirectly. The core areas of work will be: Exports (market access, trade shows, international marketing); Marketing (We Eat Balanced, education); and Insight & Evidence (market intelligence, animal health & welfare, environment, genetics). The Pork Sector plan similarly focuses on three themes: marketing, export and reputation with all work aimed at improving one or more of these themes. ●

SELECTED OVERSEAS EXPOS 2023

Event Name	City	Country	Date
Trade Mission, AgroExpo*	Izmir	Turkey	1–5 February
VIV Asia*	Bangkok	Thailand	8–10 March
AgriTek/FarmTek*	Astana	Kazakhstan	29–31 March
ILDEX	Jakarta	Indonesia	20–22 September
Agritechnica	Hannover	Germany	12–18 November

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



UKTAG



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