

Germplasm Gazette

News on trade in ruminant reproductive material

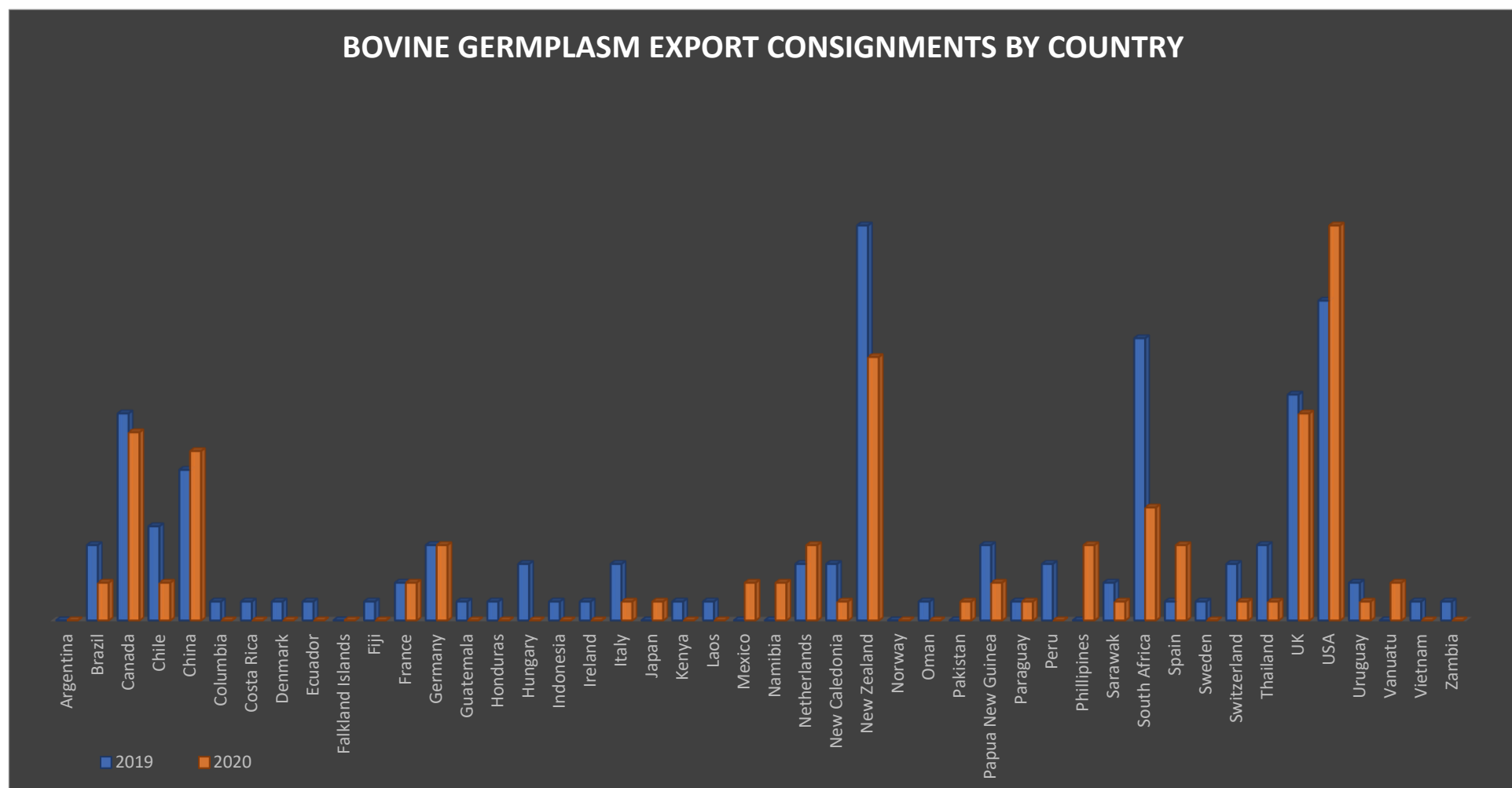
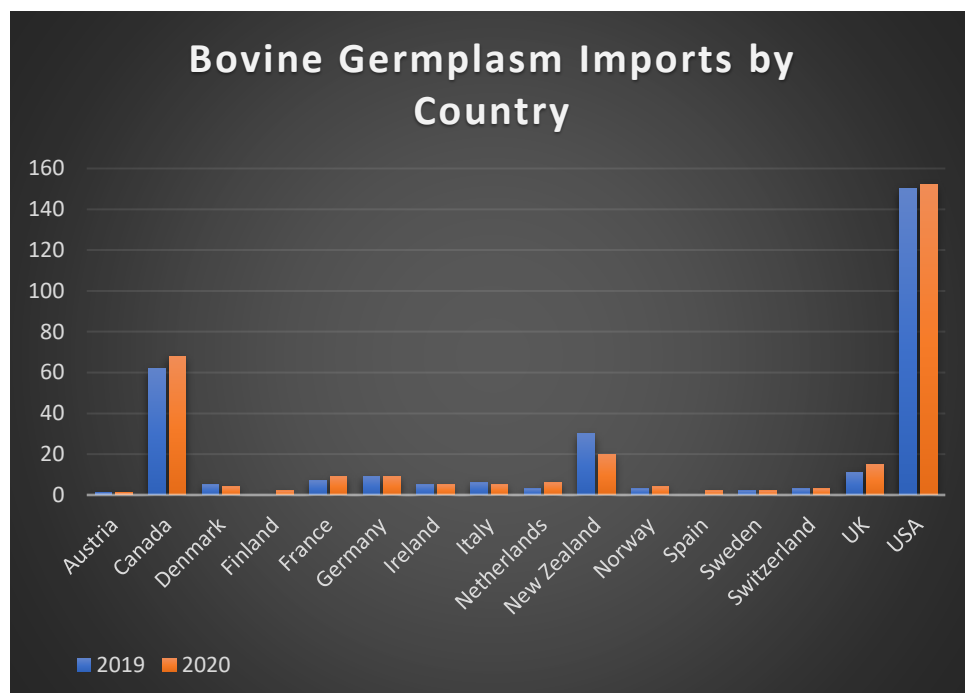
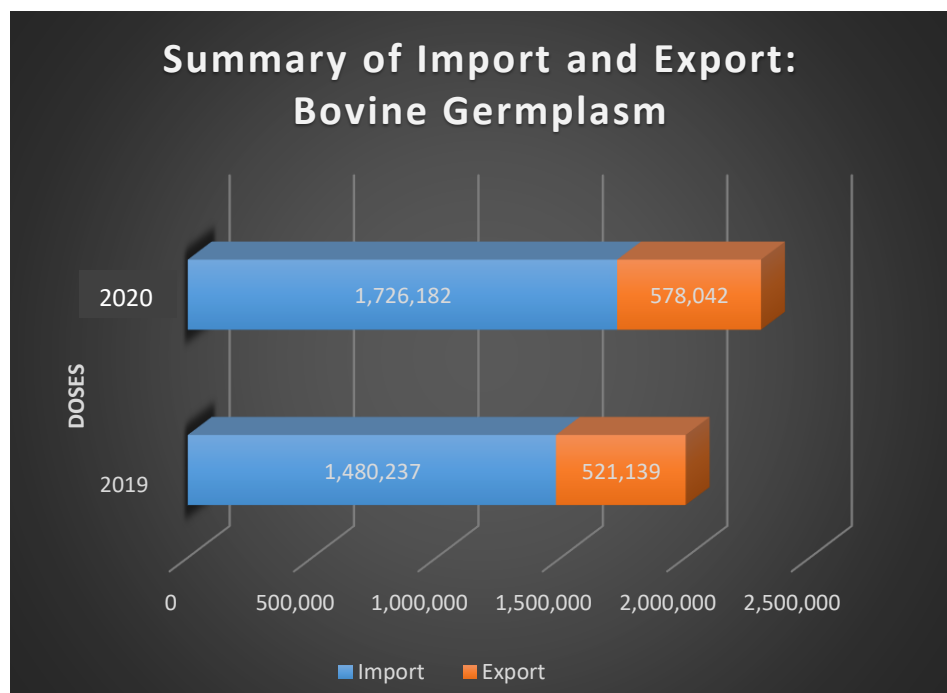
Summary of Import and Export for Bovine Germplasm 2019-2020

In 2020 export of Bovine germplasm has increased 10% from 2019.

In 2020 import of Bovine germplasm has increased 14% from 2019.

The top countries for export of Bovine germplasm from Australia were: USA, NZ, UK, Canada, and China.

The top countries for importing Bovine germplasm into Australia were: USA, Canada, NZ, UK, Germany, and France.



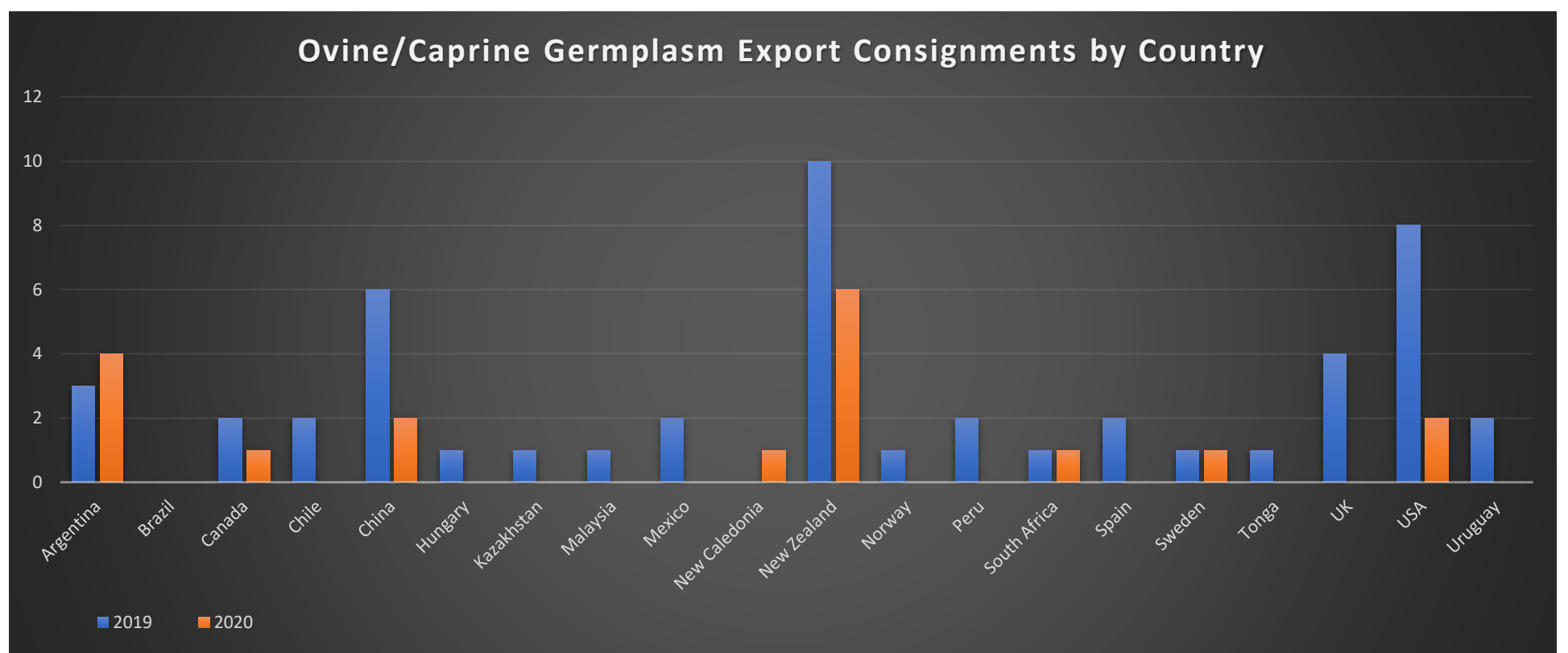
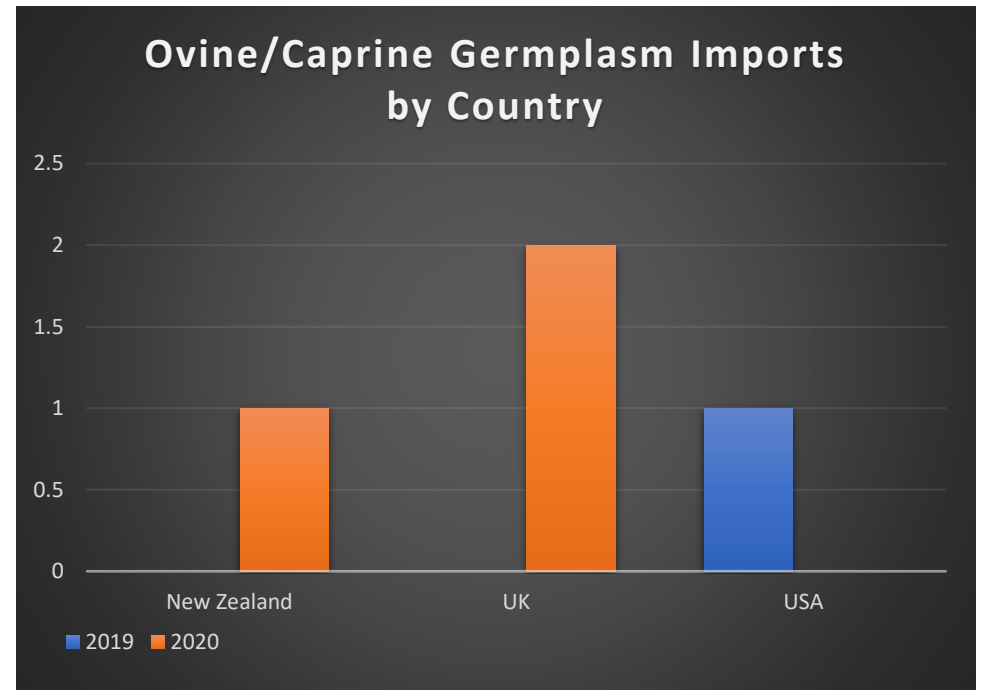
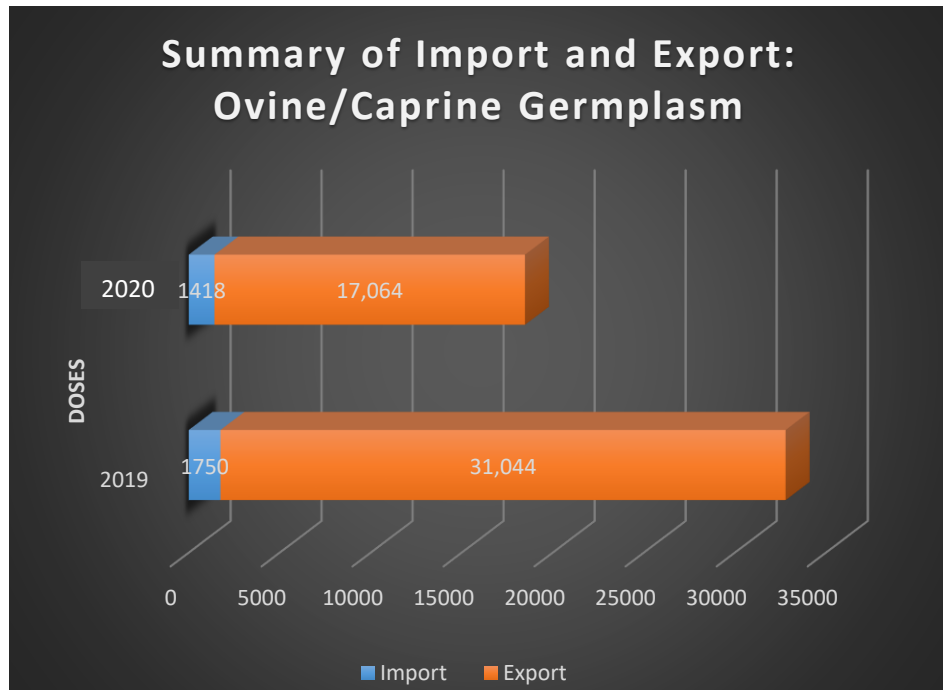
Summary of Import and Export for Ovine/Caprine Germplasm 2019-2020

In 2020 export of Ovine/Caprine germplasm has decreased 45% from 2019.

In 2020 import of Ovine/Caprine germplasm has decreased 19% from 2019.

The top countries for export of Ovine/Caprine germplasm from Australia in 2020 were to: NZ, Argentina, USA.

The top country for import of Ovine Caprine germplasm into Australia was the UK.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

To say 2020 has been a challenging year would be an understatement, with bushfires, a global pandemic and political uncertainty all affecting the germplasm trade. Here at the Department we are looking forward to a more stable 2021 and progressing priority trade issues as raised by RG TAG for industry.

Please note the following changes to normal business hours over this period:

Canberra office- Closed Friday, 25 December 2020, re-opening Monday, 4 January 2021.

Melbourne VEMG/Reprohub office- Closed Friday, 25 December 2020, reopening Tuesday, 29 December 2020. Closed Friday, 1 January reopening Monday 4 January 2021.



Detained consignments fast tracked

Import News

Australian export consignments rejected by the USDA have been able to return to Australia thanks to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment issuing urgent bovine germplasm import permits for the returning product. The USDA rejected the consignments because they were shipped via a third country, which is in contravention to the USDA's import permit conditions that state:

"The shipment must be routed directly to the United States with no stops en route other than those provided on the USDA import permit. This shipment may not transit a region considered by USDA APHIS to have foot and mouth disease (FMD) as noted on the USDA APHIS webpage Animal Health Statuses of Regions".

Consignments stored under USDA supervision and kept biosecurity safe for re-export back to Australia were issued a 'returning germplasm' permit. Conditions included the tanks having remained sealed with the original Australian government seal, or resealed by the USDA if the tank had been topped up with liquid nitrogen. Exporters please be advised that consignments to the USA must only be sent via approved routes in accordance with the import permit to avoid rejection and subsequent re-export or destruction of the consignment.

Ruminant Genetics Trade Advisory Group- RGTAG's Flag

RGTAG has been busy since the last Germplasm report was issued with submissions to the Draft export rules and the changing NZ bovine import and export conditions which are due to be implemented in early 2021.

The RGTAG website is now up and running www.nhia.org.au/rgtag alongside the development of the members page which carries information on protocol templates, minutes of committee meetings and other documents relevant to the RGTAG membership.

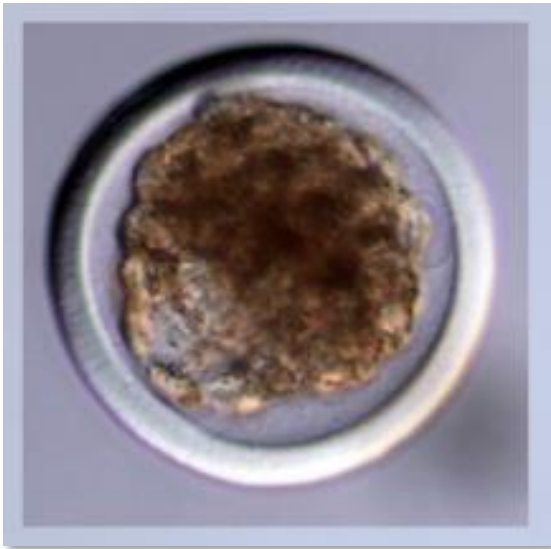
The 1st draft of the RGTAG business plan has been created and is now before members in a consultation period as we seek feedback from members. This will be finalised before the end of 2020 with RGTAG carrying out the strategic actions in 2021.

The RGTAG committee has met on a number of occasions using the "new normal" of virtual meetings to discuss the issues around protocols and priorities as well as the issues discussed above. The committee is determined to expand the international reputation and availability of ruminant genetic exports from Australia and increase the exposure of our industry across the world.

We would encourage all those involved in the ruminant genetics industry that are not members of RGTAG to consider joining the group and having an active role in the promotion of our industry.

For further information contact the RGTAG secretariat, Sara Merkel sara@nhia.org.au | Ph: 1300 844 220

Changes to Accreditation for Australian Embryo Transfer Veterinarians (ETVs)



The overseas movement of livestock embryos requires robust systems to demonstrate compliance with international standards to manage biosecurity risk.

The approval of the lead embryo transfer veterinarian (ETV) by the department is viewed as one of the most important official processes and the department has had to look at strengthening this process. We do this to demonstrate Australia's commitment to international standards for trade in animal products, to maintain market access for livestock embryos and to gain new market access.

The '1999 Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) Collection and Processing of Embryos for Export program, Program for the AQIS Accreditation for ET Veterinarians' has been updated, the new program 'Program for the Department of Agriculture Approval of Embryo Transfer Veterinarians, and the Approval and Accreditation of Export Embryo Facilities- Collection and Processing of Embryo/s for export' can be found soon online at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/reproductive-material>.

The revised 1999 version now has an online component and an updated audit framework which will assess each ETVs technical skills, understanding of biosecurity requirements and includes requirements for ongoing accreditation, these improvements should both streamline and strengthen the existing system.

The revision of the ETV accreditation system was accomplished through successful collaboration between the department, industry and the professional association representing veterinarians across Australia (the Australian Veterinary Association's (-AVA) Australian Reproductive Veterinarians special interest group. An online examination for the ETV accreditation will be housed soon on the AVA-Australian Reproductive Veterinarians special interest groups' website.

For ETV ongoing approval the following is required:

- a. **Registered Veterinary Surgeon**
- b. **IETS data submission**
- c. **On-going competence requirements**
- d. **The approval of ETVs requires a review every 3 years.**

In addition, the new program now also includes onsite competency assessments for new applicants; as such existing ETVs are asked to confirm if they are willing to be an Embryo Transfer Veterinarian Technical Management Committee (ETV TMC) auditor to perform pre-approval audits of applicants applying for Department of Agriculture ETV approval and consent to their information being included in the list of potential audit locations made public on the AVA website (that is, name and email address). There is also the opportunity to confirm willingness for their accredited facility to be utilised as a pre-approval audit site and consent to their information being included in the list of potential audit locations that is made public on the AVA website (that is, name and email address)

Any further questions can be directed to the ETV TMC principal convenor, Dr Andrea Preusche on andrea.preusche@agriculture.gov.au