

Germplasm Gazette

News on trade in Animal Reproductive Material



<https://dawr.imagegallery.me/>

New Zealand Small Ruminant visit

Import News

In late 2018 Australia held bilateral meetings with New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) where the MPI raised concerns that it could no longer provide health certification that satisfied Australian import requirements for ovine and caprine germplasm from New Zealand. Departmental officers will visit New Zealand to discuss and access MPI's processes for germplasm collection, import from 3rd countries, traceability, surveillance and outbreak preparedness. This is in response to the change in New Zealand's import policy to allow the import of sheep and goat germplasm, with lower risk mitigation requirements compared to Australian imports from scrapie infected countries.

Changes to air cargo screening requirements

Export News

The Australian Government has announced new export screening requirements for air cargo effective from 1 March 2019. From this date all outbound international air cargo must be examined under the Enhanced Air Cargo Examination (EACE) program before it is loaded onto the plane. Although this is not a new requirement it will create an increased level of examination for products prior to clearing Australian borders.

Businesses can choose to apply (at no cost) to the *Known consignor scheme* as an alternative to using a Regulated Air Cargo Agent (RACA) to examine and clear air cargo on their behalf in order to meet air cargo security requirements. Regardless of destination, international outbound cargo that originates from a *Known consignor* will not require further examination before uplift onto an aircraft. This will help to streamline the way goods are cleared through Australian borders.

Becoming a 'Known consignor' is not mandatory, and will be of most benefit to businesses that export large or regular amounts of air cargo.

For further information on the air cargo screening requirements and how to become a *Known consignor* please see the following web addresses:

Air cargo screening requirements

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/from-australia/air-cargo-changes#changes-to-export-cargo-security-examination-requirements>

Known consignor scheme

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/transport-security/air-cargo-and-aviation/air-cargo/known-consignor-scheme>

Ruminant Genetics Trade Advisory Group- RGTAG's Flag

The organisation through which the ruminant germplasm industry engages with the Department is the Ruminant Germplasm Trade Advisory Group. A role of this Group is to advise the Department on trade related issues, including industry priorities for where the Department needs to allocate its resources. A part of the Groups role is collating and providing industry feedback to the Australian Government on animal health protocols with a particular emphasis on practicality/cost effectiveness of trade that may result.

An RGTAG working group, that has broad species representation, has been working on the constitution for RGTAG, so that industry participants can formally participate in the Group via direct membership. Financial members of the Group will be able to elect representatives to the RGTAG Committee. The RGTAG Committee will elect its Chairman. To minimise administrative costs the governance of the Group will continue to be managed by NHIA, including the provision of secretariat services. Being a financial member of RGTAG will give members the opportunity to have input as to where the Department directs its resources and an industry forum in which to raise trade related issues. It is envisaged that the Group will also be able to coordinate other trade related activities on behalf of the industry.

The next meeting of RGTAG will be in Sydney, April 9. This meeting will be open to participants in the ruminant germplasm import/export industry and will be an opportunity for industry participants to have input on formation of RGTAG into membership based group. If you are interested in attending this meeting can you please contact Stephen Carroll, CEO NHIA, via stephen@nhia.org.au.

Two shakes of a lambs tail

RGTAG meeting (all welcome to attend) on 09 April 2019, Sydney Australia

USA protocol for small ruminant germplasm agreed

Market access negotiations ongoing for small ruminant germplasm to Russia and bovine semen to Israel



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International embryo technology society (IETS) annual conference and meetings

Import News

Two departmental staff from the animal biosecurity branch attended the 45th annual International Embryo Technology Society (IETS) conference in New Orleans, USA in January 2019. Meeting are held during this conference for the Health and Scientific Advisory Committees (HASAC) that provide advice on national and international matters, submit recommendations based on current scientific knowledge, and provide guidance and advice to international agencies such as the UN and OIE.

As a member of HASAC the department reviews literature relevant to issues, evaluates the potential (science based) risks for safe international trade of embryos and human consumption of animal or animal products derived from embryo transfer and related technologies, develops and provides guidelines such as codes of practice, recommendations and other information pertinent to the safe movement of embryos and safe introduction into the food chain of animal or animal products derived from reproductive biotechnology without unduly restricting technological advance and commerce and communicates with other IETS members and relevant International Agencies.

An example of some of the issues raised and discussed during these meeting included clarifying Article 4.8.5 of the OIE Code with regards to tests and treatments, whether bluetongue virus should be categorized into a higher risk category as per Appendix B of the IETS Manual, review of the IETS categorization system (currently adopted by the OIE used to classify the risk due to disease/pathogenic agents associated with in vivo embryo transfer), the need to review requirements for the use of antimicrobials during germplasm production in relation to antimicrobial resistance and changes to inter member state movement of germplasm within the EU.



[https://www.iets.org/2019/ EU](https://www.iets.org/2019/EU)

USA protocol agreed for USA small ruminant germplasm

Export News

Negotiations with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding ovine and caprine semen and embryos has been successful.

A new Protocol has been agreed and a Veterinary Health Certificate and Basis of Certification are being finalized with the removal of the *B. abortus* testing requirements and increased clarity on clauses.

Updates will be published shortly on the department's Manual of Importing Country Requirements website MICoR <https://micor.agriculture.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>.

Market Access Negotiations

Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)- Ovine/Caprine germplasm

The department is currently in negotiations with Rosselkhoznadzor regarding health certification for the export of ovine and caprine semen and embryos from Australia to the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Australia has requested the EEU consider the removal of additional testing requirements to reflect Australia's freedom from tuberculosis and maedi-visna.

Israel- Bovine semen

The department is currently in negotiations with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development regarding health certification for the export of bovine semen from Australia to the Israel. Australia has requested that Israel consider the removal of testing requirements that are not necessary given Australia's animal health status.

SNAPSHOT: BOVINE SEMEN EXPORT DATA 2017/18

| Semen | Total dose |
|--------------------------|------------|
| China | 142192 |
| New Zealand | 63158 |
| Vietnam | 53180 |
| South Africa | 41896 |
| Brazil | 34501 |
| Chile | 28480 |
| United Kingdom | 23033 |
| Canada | 18530 |
| United States of America | 14222 |
| Argentina | 14187 |
| Other | 61156 |

