

# Germplasm Gazette

## News on trade in ruminant reproductive material



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,**  
**Water and the Environment**

### In This Issue

A review of 2021.....	1
Export Grants and Financial Assistance.....	1
Remote Inspection.....	1
Melbourne Office Relocation Update.....	2
TRACE Enhancements.....	2
A Reminder to ETVs; Submit IETS Data Annually to Maintain Accreditation.....	2
Liquid Nitrogen Risk Assessment.....	2
Operations Reminder; Submission of Packing List.....	2
Market Access Update.....	3

Is there anything you would like to know more about or read in the Gazette? If so, please email: [lucy.coldwell@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:lucy.coldwell@agriculture.gov.au)

### Remote Inspection

#### Export News

As updated previously the ReproHub have successfully exported a number of consignments of reproductive material using technology to complete remote tank inspections. Feedback about this process has been positive and we are looking to further expand this trial with a validation exercise.

### A review of 2021

#### Import News

Despite the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on international movement of people, animals and other trade commodities, 2021 was a busy year for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's import programs. The department's Horse, Livestock and Bird imports program (HLB) issued 82 ruminant germplasm import permits, and regional officers cleared more than 280 separate consignments of ruminant germplasm amidst complications including isolation of staff, frequent flight changes and even an earthquake! The department continued to work closely with importers to ensure pre-consignment checks identified any non-compliance issues to ensure ruminant germplasm could be cleared efficiently at the border.

The department's HLB program made a number of improvements to the import conditions for ruminant germplasm, including creating new permit cases to allow for ruminant germplasm collected in a different country to the country of export, and clarifying conditions for straw labelling requirements. The department also identified a potential biosecurity risk in the way bovine semen is certified and cleared and continues to consult with exporting competent authorities and industry to develop a workable solution. We are looking forward to 2022 being another busy year for ruminant germplasm imports with increased collaboration and consultation with industry.

### Export Grants and Financial Assistance

#### Export and Import News



Source: DAWE

Australian exporters and importers can access several types of financial assistance including grants, loans and duty concessions. These schemes help Australian businesses sell their products around the world. The Australian Government manages a number of financial assistance schemes. Most state and territory governments also offer support for exporters. Austrade maintains [a list of the main schemes](#), and also administers the [Export Market](#)

[Development Grants \(EMDG\)](#) which covers marketing and promotion expenses for small to medium export businesses, and the [Women in Export](#) scholarships for women involved in exporting and global business.

The easiest way to find a financial assistance scheme to meet your needs is by using the Australian Government's free [Grants & Assistance tool](#). You can search for grants using keywords (such as 'export' or 'import') and filter the results based on your region, industry and type of business.

---

## Melbourne Office Relocation Update

---

### Export News



Source: <https://www.europeanproperty.com/news/workforce-transition-during-business-relocation/>

The new Melbourne office will be located near the heart of Moonee Ponds at **1-21 Dean Street, Moonee Ponds 3039**.

The building itself was purpose built for Foxtel in 2004 and is a multilevel building. The property comprises a basement, ground level, levels one to three, as well as basement car spaces together with an adjoining freestanding multi-deck car park. The inspection room will be located in the basement with direct access at ground level.

We are expecting to relocate to the new premises in late June/early July 2022.

---

## TRACE Enhancements

---

### Export News

The Tracking Animal Certification for Export (TRACE) is the system used by licensed livestock exporters to manage the application and approval process for consignments of livestock.

We are currently working on expanding TRACE to include exporters of animal reproductive material. We have commenced a trial with one exporter and are working through the feedback provided. If the trial is successful TRACE will be implemented for use by exporters of reproductive material.

This will allow exporters of reproductive material to directly input their NOI and supporting documents into TRACE rather than using forms and emails to submit the NOI and supporting documents. TRACE also provides records storage for the consignment.



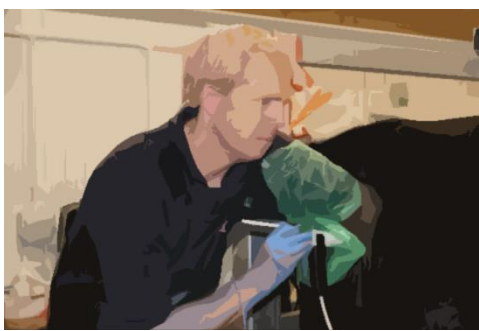
Source: DAWE

---

## A Reminder to ETVs; Submit IETS Data Annually to Maintain Accreditation

---

### Export News



Source: <https://www.beefshorthorn.org/beef-shorthorn-news/2019/11/28/semen-use-and-care-in-breeding-programmes-ai-et-and-ivf>

As part of the ongoing approval requirements, ETVs (Embryo Transfer Veterinarians) must submit information on donors flushed and embryo/s collected/frozen/transferred for exportation and domestic use by the embryo collection team under their supervision to the IETS data retrieval committee annually, **prior to 31<sup>st</sup> August**.

This information can be entered into the IETS database via [www.iets.org/data-retrieval/](http://www.iets.org/data-retrieval/). Evidence of the IETS data submission must be retained and provided to the department as part of the annual facility audit.

For further information on this topic, please refer to the department's document, *Program for the approval of embryo transfer veterinarians, and the approval and accreditation of export embryo facilities* which can be found at: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/embyo-transfer-veterinarian-approval-policy-manual.pdf> or contact the Embryo Transfer Veterinarian Technical Management Committee Principal Convenor on: [Andrea.Preusche@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:Andrea.Preusche@agriculture.gov.au)

---

## Liquid Nitrogen Risk Assessment

---

### Export News

The department is currently completing a national risk assessment for the handling of liquid nitrogen on department premises. Thank you to the exporters who provided practical input on this issue. We will provide further updates on any changes once the risk assessment is completed.



Source: <https://www.thermafisher.com/order/catalog/product/2123>

---

## Operations Reminder: Submission of Packing Lists

---

### Export News

The straw details on the packing list must be consistent with the health certificate.

We have recently seen instances where the final packing list did not match the health certificate resulting in the tank being detained at its final destination.

This is usually due to the final packing list submitted to the ReproHub being different to the original packing list submitted at the time of NOI submission. In these circumstances, please ensure that the Hub is made aware of the changes well before the tank inspection so that the health certificate can be reviewed and amended.

If minor changes are made such as straw numbers for donors that have already been assessed by the Hub, we require at least 24 hours notice prior to the tank inspection. For major changes such as new donors added, we will need to reassess the new information and supporting documents to ensure it still meets the importing country requirements. The tank inspection will need to be postponed until the new information is assessed and approved by the Hub.

---

## Market Access Update and 2021 Trade Statistics

---

Figure 1.

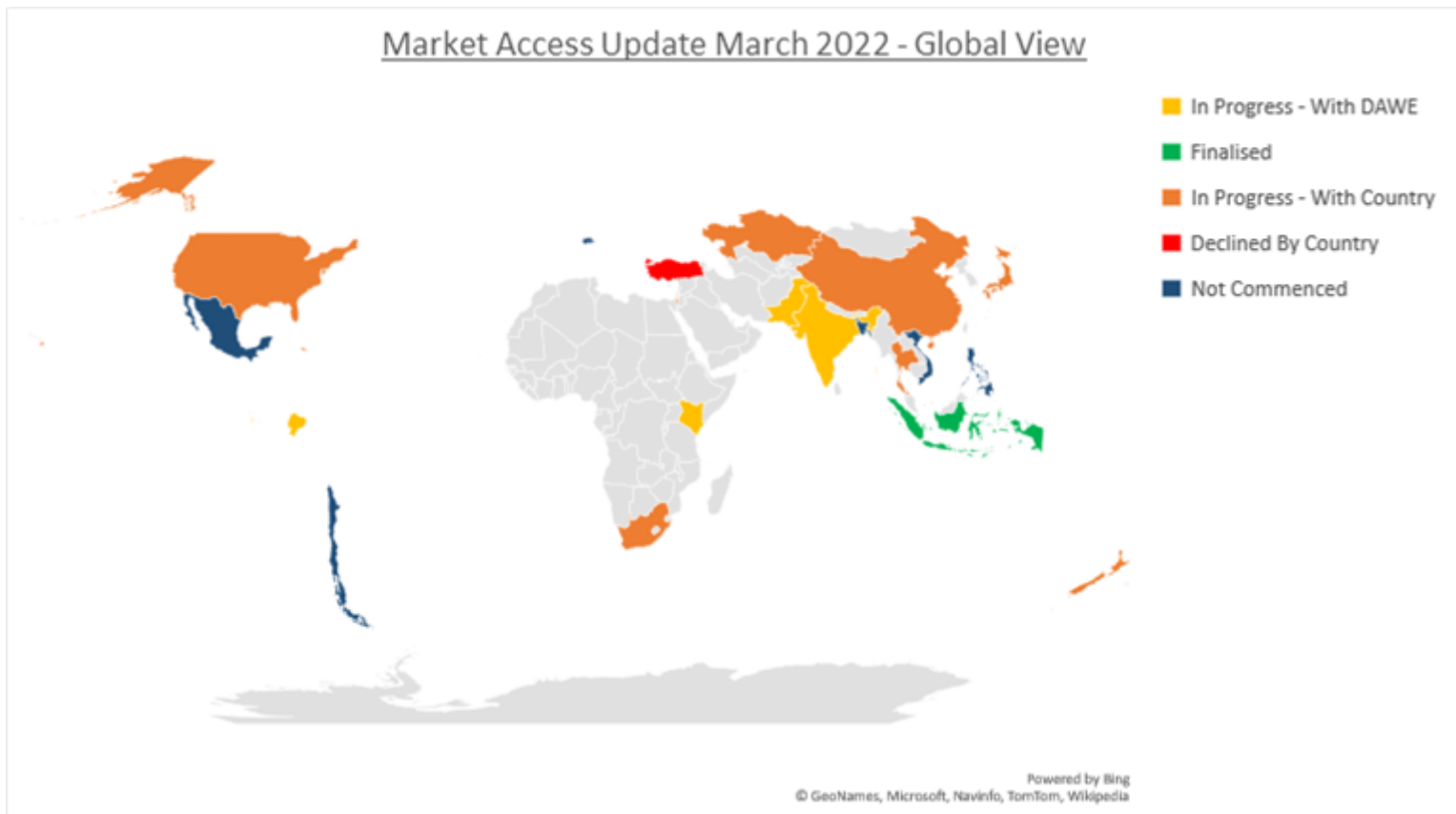


Figure 1 illustrates a global view of Australia’s market access updates for germplasm, as of March 2022.

### Export News

We are now well into 2022 and are starting to see some positive changes with restrictions being lifted and life becoming a little easier. Although the impacts of COVID-19 will be with us for some time, we have all shown that we can continue to move forward, even with the additional challenges.

In 2021, although we were still dealing with many uncertainties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was still a busy year for exports, despite a reduction in trade seen across all ruminant germplasm commodities compared to 2020.

The department continues to consult with the Ruminant Genetics Trade Advisory Group (RGTAG).

It is important that RGTAG has broad industry membership representation to accurately represent the ruminant reproductive material import and export industry, and other stakeholders on matters relating to:

- o Trade in livestock reproductive material
- o New livestock reproductive technologies
- o Biosecurity risks associated with trade in livestock germplasm
- o International standards (OIE, IETS) associated with trade in livestock germplasm
- o Rank ruminant reproductive industry international market access and import priorities.

For further information or to become a member of RGTAG please contact Sara Merckel on email; [sara@nhia.org.au](mailto:sara@nhia.org.au)