

Germplasm Gazette

News on trade in ruminant reproductive material



Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

On the 5th of December 2019, the Prime Minister announced changes to the structure of the Australian Public Service that took effect on the 1st of February 2020 as part of the government's reform agenda.

The Prime Minister announced the creation of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) which will incorporate all of our current functions as well as the environment functions from the Department of the Environment and Energy.

The department is no stranger to name changes with titles in the last 50 years including:

- Department of Agriculture (DA)
- Department of Primary Industries (DPI)
- Department of Primary Industries and Energy (DPIE)
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
- Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR)

Our border services however are perhaps best remembered as the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), aided by classic advertisements such as that pictured (left).

Opportunities in Mexico

Export News

Last year we reported there is interest in importing ruminant genetic material from Australia to Mexico, unfortunately we have not yet seen this interest result in exports.

Our Counsellor (Agriculture) in Mexico – Dr Kate Makin, has advised that Mexican industry and government representatives continue to request information regarding the ruminant genetics Australia has to offer.

If you are interested in exporting to Mexico please feel free to send the department PDF copies of your catalogues or brochures and we will pass these onto the industry and government representatives expressing interest in Australian genetics.

For further information please contact Repro Hub via Genetics@awe.gov.au

Ruminant Genetics Trade Advisory Group- RGTAG's Flag

In support of the further development of RGTAG's role as the industry representative organisation through which the Department obtains industry input on matters relating to the trade of embryo's and semen, the Department will be financing industry participation in two RGTAG meetings this financial year.

RGTAG provides collective industry input to the Government on market access priorities and operational matters concerning the administration of the import and export of semen and embryos and related biosecurity regulation.

Financial support will include covering the airfares and accommodation of representatives of individual import/export centres.

In RGTAG fulfilling this role it is important that RGTAG has broad industry membership representation. This will be an opportunity for individual import/export centres to experience and participate in the role of RGTAG.

The next RGTAG meeting will be held in Adelaide on March 13th 2020.

For further information please contact RGTAG secretariat Stephen Carrol, CEO NHIA via Stephen@nhia.org.au

New Market Access- Canadian bovine in vitro embryos

Import News

The Department of Agriculture has finalised a health certificate to allow the import of Canadian bovine in vitro embryos into Australia.

Following the March 2017 review on importing bovine in vitro embryos from the USA and Canada, lengthy negotiations with Canada have finally concluded.

The negotiations were strongly assisted by the Canadian bovine germplasm in-country audit carried out by the department in late June 2019.

The import conditions are available on the department's biosecurity import conditions database, BICON.

Is there anything you would like to know more about or read in the Gazette? If so please email- Andrea.Preusche@awe.gov.au

Two shakes of a lambs tail

For the second half of 2019 (July to December) there were 178 consignments of reproductive material exported.



New Zealand- Detained consignments fast tracked

Export News

In October the Australia – New Zealand Technical Working Group met in Canberra.

New Zealand has agreed to fast track the release of future consignments that have been detained due to incomplete or erroneous documentation by accepting amendments through electronic certification.

This will enable detained consignments to be released without waiting for the original re-issued documents to arrive in New Zealand.

Government to Government correspondence

The Repro Hub is unable to share copies of official government to government correspondence, this includes when the department has made a dispensation request on behalf of an exporter.

This is a standard policy between governments and is applied for all commodities.

Reprohub can provide confirmation that correspondence has been sent and progress updates on the request.

Reproductive material export assessment charging

Charging for assessment of consignments of reproductive material for export is outlined in the Departmental Charging Guidelines 2017 (available on the departments website <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/fees/charging-guidelines>)

For the export of reproductive material, fee bearing activities include assessment, inspection and audit.

A documentation fee is applied for each export permit and health certificate issued by the department. The document fee covers the cost of preparing and issuing these documents and is a set fee for each document issued. When multiple health certificates or export permits are required a separate fee applies to each export permit and health certificate issued. The document fee does not cover the time spent examining consignment documentation to determine whether animals (including reproductive material) should be inspected, or issued export permits.

Fee bearing work includes assessment time spent reviewing the country's import conditions and/or import permit/s in addition to reviewing documents to determine inspection requirements to meet eligibility criteria for export. This is a time based fee, therefore the charges can vary for different markets and consignments. Staff training is not included in fees.

The table below shows the range of fees that have been applied for some common markets:

Market	Range
Bovine Semen to NZ	\$415-800
Bovine semen to USA	\$470-690
Bovine semen to Canada	\$360-690
Bovine semen to South Africa	\$470-925
Bovine semen to Chile	\$415-800

The variation in fees occur for a number of reasons, some examples are listed below:

- Complexity of the protocol
- The number of donors and variety of collection periods in the consignment
- The number of collection centres in the consignment
- Donors within the same consignment, of varying health status or having different diagnostic pathology/laboratory testing applied
- Incomplete or inaccurate documentation submitted
- Failure to provide details for the property of origin
- CVD's or ECC declarations being submitted that are incomplete e.g. with clauses that have not been answered or declared.
- Absence of documents e.g. missing laboratory reports, missing signed CVD's/ECC declarations.
- Errors in documentation provided e.g. errors in the NOI or CVD's/ECC declarations
- Inconsistently labelled files or copious files
- Requests for draft health certificates
- Dispensation requests
- Failure to provide all required property clearances (issued by the State) or that cover the time period for which they are being required for
- Changes and amendments to the consignment requested by the exporter, once assessment of the consignment has already commenced or assessment is complete

If you have any queries about the charging guidelines, fees for a specific market or how to reduce your fees please contact the Repro Hub via Genetics@agriculture.gov.au

