

# Germplasm Gazette

## News on trade in Animal Reproductive Material

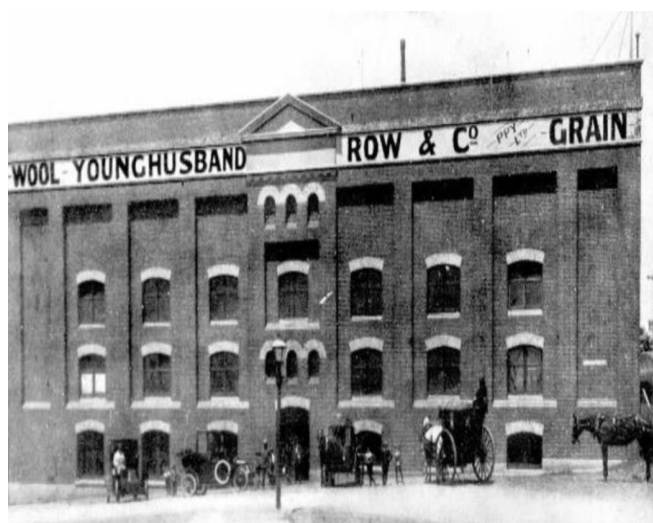


Image: The Leader Journal, 18.12.1909

## Melbourne Office Relocation

The department will no longer be relocating its existing Melbourne offices to the Younghusband Woolstore site in Kensington, Victoria. A further notice will be provided once a new site for relocation has been secured.

Following a review of its future accommodation requirements, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment selected the Younghusband Woolstore in Kensington as the new site for its regional office. The developer has been undertaking major refurbishment of the building while the department has been preparing for the relocation. The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the building and construction sector has resulted in a delay of the refurbishment work such that the expected timing of completion no longer meets the department's needs. The department will therefore seek another suitable site, with the specific relocation date to be confirmed when a site has been identified and secured. Approximate timing for relocation is expected to be in the first half of 2022.

If you have questions regarding relocation of the Melbourne office please email [MRorelocation@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:MRorelocation@agriculture.gov.au).



## Remote tank inspection trial

The department recently completed an initial trial of a remote pre-export tank inspection. The trial used *Whatsapp* to complete the tank inspection via real time video. In the trial connectivity was good and the straw details were clearly readable for the inspecting officer. As this is a trial only the tank was also inspected in person before export.

There are benefits to using this technology to complete our tank inspections and we are keen to continue this trial with other exporters. At this stage we are still working through some other issues around what is acceptable to importing countries. We are keen to gather additional trial data on how the system could work to assist with this. Please contact [genetics@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:genetics@agriculture.gov.au) if you would like to be involved in a trial.

## Purebred genetics to the EU

The European Commission has released changes to zootechnical certificates for trade in purebred breeding animals and their germinal products (Annex 1: Zootechnical certificate for trade in purebred breeding animals of the bovine, porcine, ovine and caprine species.). There will be no changes to the standard Australian Government health certificates, however centres trading in pure bred genetics are advised that they will be required to provide the amended annex to current certification allowing for dual certification with breed societies. All exports must comply by August 4th 2020. Further information on this change can be accessed on the EUR-Lex Access to European Law website at [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2020/602/oj](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/602/oj).

## Market access priorities for the department

From the previous RGTAG meeting (March 2020) the following has been identified to the Department as high priorities to progress for industry in 2020/2021:

**China-** Ovine/Caprine semen and embryos;

**Kazakhstan-** Ovine/Caprine semen and embryos;

**Kenya-** Bovine semen and embryos;

**Pakistan-** Bovine semen and embryos;

**Paraguay-** Bovine embryos;

**Peru-** Bovine, Ovine/Caprine semen and embryos;

**Philippines-** Bovine semen and embryos;

**South Africa-** Bovine semen and embryos;

**Thailand-** Bovine semen and embryos;

**Turkey-** Ovine/Caprine semen and embryos

**Uruguay-** Ovine/Caprine semen and embryos.

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# Operational update- Reprohub

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Under the COVID-19 restrictions we have seen some significant changes in our workload and how we do our work. Our data on reproductive material exports show there were 60 exports of genetic material for the period March, April, May 2020. This compared with 155 consignments for the same period in 2019 (equating to a 60% decrease this year). In the repro hub we have endeavored to maintain flexibility in our standard time frames to assist as much as possible with the logistical challenges caused by COVID-19. However, there are some requirements that are legislated, and we are unable to vary. If you have significant logistical or freight changes to your consignments please contact the repro hub in advance to discuss how these can be progressed at [genetics@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:genetics@agriculture.gov.au).

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## Indonesia bovine genetics

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### Export News

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Last year there were some issues with import permits being issued for bovine semen to Indonesia containing old conditions.

The policy and technical area have been following up with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Animal Health Services in Indonesia since September 2019 and have had recent confirmation that Indonesia will continue to accept the 2018 health certificate for bovine semen of Australian origin to Indonesia. The ministry has also confirmed the acceptance of Australia's requests for additional health requirements regarding bulls of unknown or positive Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis/Infectious Pustular Vulvovaginitis (IBR/IPV) status aligning with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) code.

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## International embryo technology society (IETS)

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### Policy news

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The policy and technical area of the department have provided input into the re-categorization of livestock diseases that are potentially transmitted through international trade in embryos. Animal biosecurity technical experts are members of the IETS Health and Safety Advisory Committee (HASAC). The OIE recognize IETS as the standard setting experts when it comes to trade in livestock embryo. It is a critical forum for departmental involvement as genetic improvement of Australian livestock is dependent on import of germplasm rather than live import. Australia does not currently import live cattle, sheep, and goats.



Image: The Monthly, 2019

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## Liquid Nitrogen- Risk Assessment

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### Operational News

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The department will be completing a Work Health and Safety risk assessment of the management and handling of liquid nitrogen on departmental premises nationally. This will include handling of liquid nitrogen by visitors to departmental premises.

The risk assessment will cover the need for personal protective equipment such as gloves, face or eye shields and enclosed footwear.

If you have any comments, experiences or information relevant to this assessment with regard to the handling of liquid nitrogen please submit to [genetics@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:genetics@agriculture.gov.au) we would appreciate your involvement.



Image: <https://feelthefreeze.com/2020/02/the-hidden-dangers-of-liquid-nitrogen/>

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## Cost recovery review

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### Operational News

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The department has paused the consultation process for the Cost Recovery Implementation Statements as the next step was a further, short round, of consultation. Given the changing impact of COVID-19 on the Australian community and businesses it has not been appropriate to continue this consultation at this time. The department is monitoring the situation and will advise next steps as soon as practicable. The department's recommendation to the Minister on the Cost Recovery Implementation Statements will take into account all known circumstances and views but at this stage we cannot comment on what those recommendations will be.

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# Ruminant Genetics Trade Advisory Group- RGTAG's Flag

## Meetings

In the last issue NHIA advised that the Department is financing industry participation in two RGTAG meetings this financial year. The first meeting was held on Friday 13th March 2020 in Adelaide (coinciding with the Australian Cattle Vet Conference, Glenelg) where current RGTAG members and the wider industry attended the meeting.

The discussion of the meeting included updating on trade issues, updates on protocol negotiations, priority setting and Departmental operational issues. Other items of discussion were audits, specifically the Chinese had plans to arrive in Australia for an audit visit with centres and due to COVID-19 centres are now completing desk top audits. Chile would also like to visit for their audit purposes and both of these visits will be rescheduled pending the improvement of the current COVID-19 situation.

The second RGTAG meeting was due to be held in June to coincide with 'Lambex' in Melbourne but has been delayed due to COVID-19. An update of this second meeting will be advised pending the current COVID-19 situation.

## Strategic Plan

The Department is also financing a strategic plan and NHIA together with the assistance of the RGTAG group looks forward to delivering this plan and will schedule a meeting for this purpose with the members.

If you would like to be part of the group, the costs for membership are:

Import/export centres - \$500

Breeders - \$200

## New Zealand Protocols

Currently the RGTAG group is providing feedback to DAWE on a revised import health standard for bovine germplasm.

## NHIA Office Restructure

The NHIA Board announced an organisational restructure and as a result of the review, the position of Chief Executive Officer has been made redundant, with Stephen Carroll leaving the organisation. The NHIA Chairman, Graeme Gillan, advised these decisions are always difficult and the Board would like to express its gratitude to Stephen Carroll for his contribution to NHIA and the RGTAG group over the last two years.

Collectively the Board will oversee NHIA's wider industry representation activities, including its Ruminants Genetics Trade Advisory Group lead role. The principal contact is Sara and her details are below.

If you have any questions in relation to this announcement please feel free to Sara, who can be reached via email:

[sara@nhia.org.au](mailto:sara@nhia.org.au) or phone: 0411-819-165.