

# GENETICS EXPORTS 2022

SUMMER 2022

AHDB

EXPORTS



UK TAG

## Welcome and Introduction

In July a delegation of officials and farmers came to the UK from multiple South American countries to attend the Sheep Event. They were hosted by UK businesses, the NSA, UKTAG and UKECP. In addition, there were five visitors from Turkey including Professors in Reproduction as well as farmers.

This underlines the huge interest in UK livestock which exists across not only Europe but also well beyond.

Recent discussions - including a flying visit by UKECP to Kazakhstan – have resulted in agreement on cattle semen certificates for export. This followed an Inward Mission of Kazakh breeders hosted by the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society at the Royal Highland followed by a tour of herds across Scotland and England (see next page).

The USA will soon be open to sheep embryos following years of pressure from both sides. Defra and UKECP have been working hand-in-hand with APHIS to come to an agreement on this market. Semen is already being collected from multiple breeds for export to join that already sent and the move towards embryos will benefit both sides of the Atlantic.

This all points towards an expanding export market particularly for the germplasm sector.

Dr Rob Grinnall, UKECP Director, BVSc, MRCVS



## BRITISH SHEEP 'FIRST' TO ARGENTINA



UKECP Director Henry Lewis pictured on a technical mission to Argentina four years ago

In early April, the first shipment of ovine genetics arrived in Argentina after a gap of more than 50 years since the first British sheep were imported to the market. The breeds involved were Hampshire Down, Texel and Charollais and whilst this is a relatively modest import - comprising 600 semen doses and 150 embryos - this 'first' is expected to herald many more. Many partners at home and abroad worked hard to make this happen – in fact the market for UK ovine semen opened in

2020 but the beginning of the pandemic delayed efforts.

At present only one supplier, AB Europe, is currently authorised to export from the UK to Argentina. Commenting, AB Europe CEO, Geraint Thomas, said: "It was great to finally get some genetics there with everyone working so hard to get it over the line. We also got a good shipment to Chile away and should have one to Paraguay away soon." See [www.abreeds.co.uk](http://www.abreeds.co.uk)



AB Europe semen flask

News report from the 1963 export



**THE SHAPWICK FLOCK OF HAMPSHIRE DOWNS**

THE HEMSWORTH HERD OF BRITISH FRIESIANS  
THE BLANDFORD HERD OF LARGE WHITES

**P. STEWART TORY & SONS**



Shapwick Catalogue

## ABERDEEN-ANGUS EXPANSION IN KAZAKHSTAN



*Kazakh delegates pictured at Netherton*

**Robert Whitcombe, Chair of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society's Export Committee writes:**

One of the biggest expansions in Aberdeen-Angus cattle numbers is happening in a country which many would not associate with cattle production. This is Kazakhstan in central Asia which has an active breed association that has been importing AA genetics from far and wide over the past 10 years. During the last year, we have been working at opening the market for UK exports of semen, embryos and ultimately live cattle to Kazakhstan.

This culminated in a visit from 22 June to 1 July 2022 of a group of 8 prominent landowners/businessmen/farmers, together with the chief executive of the Kazakhstan Angus Chamber, Dauren

Salykov. The programme was put together with the help of the British Embassy in Kazakhstan and the Department of International Trade in London. Although the visit included visits to other businesses in the UK like JCB, the tour was very much focused on their interest in developing a large beef industry based on Aberdeen Angus and the fact that they have already imported many thousands of animals from the US, Australia and other countries.

The tour began at the Highland Show with an international reception and the Aberdeen Angus judging followed by visits to AA pedigree and commercial operations around southern Scotland and the Borders and into Southern England. This gave them a sense of the types of cattle we are breeding and the



systems of production in the UK and included an ET centre as an option to use embryos as a way of importing genetics.

The tour ended at the President's herd in Surrey and concluded with a round-up meeting with UK trade officials and the AACS Chief Executive.

### Key achievements:

- Impressed with the quality of the cattle they saw in the 'home of the breed'
- Following the visit of UKECP's Rob Grinnall to Kazakhstan in March to help negotiate export health certificates, and now their visit here, we now can export semen, and very soon embryos. Live animals will be a little way off, but that is their objective. Semen order to follow later this year
- Memorandum of understanding agreed with the Kazakh Angus Chamber for long-term cooperation
- AA Society delegation invited to visit Kazakhstan's main Livestock Show next May

It may seem a far-flung market to be putting so much effort into but given exports to our EU neighbours have been curtailed since Brexit, any exports to the Continent have to go via Ireland. We have to look further afield for trade hence this major investment in promoting our breed in Kazakhstan. ●



## UK EXPORTS PROVING SUCCESSFUL IN MEXICO

**Pictured are the results of embryos exported by AB Europe to Mexico where two Charollais entries Lady Gaga and Elton at the National Show in San Miguel de Allende respectively took the yearling reserve championship and the yearling championship followed by reserve grand championship.**



*Lady Gaga*



*Elton*

## SHEEP EVENT HOSTS INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

The last week of July was a busy week for Inward Missions in the UK with visitors from much of the globe looking at sheep, sheep semen and embryos as well as the meat trade tying in with the National Sheep Association's flagship 'Sheep Event' which took place 27-28 July.



*LATAM group at AHDB headquarters*

Visitors from Latin America (including Colombia, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina) first met with industry representatives from AHDB and Embassy staff at the AHDB centre at Stoneleigh where they took in a number of seminars on the UK sheep industry, Signet, environmental advances and technical progress. This included a visit to Rugby Farmers Market showing the commercial side to lamb production.

On Tuesday, delegates were joined by two Professors of reproduction and three farmers from Turkey as well as the Agri-trade Manager from the UK Embassy in Turkey, joining the NSA farm tours to see regenerative farming techniques followed by a visit to see

commercial organic sheep production. By Wednesday, the group was 25-strong and included Dr Elizabeth Warham, Head of the DIT Agri Tech team, to be welcomed at the NSA Sheep Event by NSA CEO Phil Stocker. The group then toured the Malvern event looking at equipment, breeds, butchery and innovation. That evening, relationships were progressed over dinner with representatives from the UK sheep industry, UKECP and UKTAG.

Thursday the delegates split for various tours. The Turkish group and their Embassy representative were taken by UKECP to AB Europe in Ledbury where they had a tour of the facilities. This was followed by three useful talks on

UKECP/UKTAG and its work, British Breeds of Sheep and Multiple Ovulation Embryo Transfer. Delegates from LATAM were split into smaller groups: two groups interested in Texel and Charolais were first given a tour of Farmgene's facilities before dividing to look at separate flocks in Shropshire while a third group went to look at Hampshires.

Friday saw everyone come together at AHDB for a final 'wash-up' meeting to see what had been learned and what we could do to facilitate sales going forward. UKECP and UKTAG would like to thank all those involved in making this a very interesting and varied visit from which trade in semen and embryos will follow. ●



*Group at Rugby Market*



*Turks at Daylesford Farm*



*Group pictured at the Sheep Event*

### LATAM Contacts

Denise Crawshaw-Pellin • Operational Director, South America, UKTAG • [denise.uktag@gmail.com](mailto:denise.uktag@gmail.com)

Daniel Benitez • Technical Director, South America, UKTAG • [daniel.uktag@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.uktag@gmail.com) • WhatsApp : + 55 83 998077393

## INWARD MISSION SEEKS BRITISH LIMOUSIN AND ANGUS GENETICS

A joint beef venture between Azerbaijan and Turkey saw respective representatives Mr Anar Mehdiyev and Mr Alim Senturk visit a Limousin and Aberdeen-Angus herd on Wednesday 15 June 2022. Mr Mehdiyev is the Chairman of Azer Sugar which has significant brewing and farming interests whilst Mr Senturk is the Founder and CEO of the Buta Group which includes a 5,000-head dairy enterprise.

In the morning, the visitors took in the Brockhurst Limousin Herd run by Harvey Mash near Chesham, Bucks followed that afternoon by Angus Stovold's Rosemead Aberdeen-Angus herd located near Guildford, Surrey.

Swiss Brown is historically the most popular breed in Azerbaijan with the plan being to establish nucleus Angus and Limousin pedigree herds most likely via embryo transfer in order to over time build up a crossbred suckler herd of 3,000 head. Issues such as food security are driving this goal of greater self-sufficiency in both dairy and beef.

Bulls on display at Brockhurst included the privately-bought Burndale



left to right, Harvey Mash, Alim Senturk, Chris Jackson and Anar Mehdiyev

Orlando, the 15,000gns Procters Mitsubishi and recent addition Goldies Relish who stood Reserve Overall Champion at Carlisle in May when purchased for 30,000gns by WJ & M Mash Ltd. Born in April 2020, a powerful bull with a top 10% Beef Value of LM41, he is by Ampertaine Opportunity out of Goldies Harmony, who goes back to Hartlaw Excaliber and the noted cow Goldies Vitality.



left to right, Chris Jackson, Anar Mehdiyev, Alim Senturk and Angus Stovold



Fresh from the recent Shadwell Dispersal Sale was the January 2021-born Evora X251 by Carruthers Grenadier and out of a Muirhall Total Teal E009-sired dam. PC Stovold & Son had paid 13,000gns for this maiden heifer. ●

*The overseas guests were accompanied by Richard Saunders along with UKTAG Export Manager Chris Jackson.*

## NORTHERN IRISH SIMMENTAL EXPORTS



Sales from the Slievenagh, Omorga and Hiltonstown herds  
Slievenagh Klassy Lady and Omorga Moses (right)

*January saw the export of two cows and calves, five heifers, and one young bull to breeders in Switzerland and Germany – a real coup and recognition of British genetics and breed improvement exporting back to the breed's homeland.*

This latest export was struck with three repeat customers and a new buyer, and continues what has been a significant export demand for British Simmental live cattle and genetics over the last two years with further sales to Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, USA and China. ●



## BRITISH PRESENCE AT PALERMO SHOW



View of the main ring at Palermo's 'La Rural' show

UK Hampshire Down President Adrian Rundle, who farms near Newquay in Cornwall, was recently selected to judge at 'La Rural' better known as the Palermo Show held in Buenos Aires, Argentina 20-31 July. One of the most famous agricultural events in South America, with a 150-year history, it attracts some one million people over ten days with 400 trade stands and around 4,000 animals entered in the various classes.

Adrian judged 130 Hampshires over two days with the champion ram selling for the equivalent of £15,500 noting that Hampshires are the most populous breed in Argentina followed by Texels.

Already of a very good quality, Argentinian breeders nevertheless are looking for the extra muscle depth and gigot provided by British genetics.

This demand was echoed by other delegations at the show from Peru, Paraguay, Mexico, Brazil and Uruguay seeking out fast-finishing lambs off grass. Already with an established beef industry, lamb is an emerging meat in Argentina and there is an opportunity there for UK genetics which the British Embassy – through our Ambassador Kirsty Hayes and her Agri-tech trade team – are keen to support. ●



Adrian Rundle pictured in the centre and second from the right (below)



## BRITISH LIVESTOCK STAND AT EUROTIER

Date for your diary

15-18 November, Hannover, Germany

The British Livestock sector will again benefit from a strong presence at EuroTier with a joint industry stand supported by cattle, sheep and pig societies alongside breeding and other associated companies.

Held every two years, this is the world's largest indoor livestock exhibition boasting 150,000+ visitors and over 2,300 exhibitors – half of whom are international companies. As such, a strong UK presence allows British farming and breeding organisations to promote themselves on the global stage.

If you would like to be part of the British Livestock Pavilion at EuroTier, Hannover, Germany, Tuesday 15 – Friday 18 November 2022, there are still opportunities to participate at a cost of £500-£1,000. The UK stand is situated in Hall 11, the main livestock and breeding hall, Stand number 11F07. Further information from Richard Saunders on 07901768904 or [richardsaunders1965@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardsaunders1965@yahoo.co.uk) ●



## CATTLE BREEDS CELEBRATE MAJOR MILESTONES



The National Charolais Show returned to the Great Yorkshire Show Tuesday 12 to Friday 15 July 2022 forming part of the hugely-anticipated Charolais World Congress, with delegates from all over the world in attendance to view the spectacular animals on display. It was a remarkably close competition of Charolais animals, all expertly judged by Mr Steven Nesbitt of the Alwent herd in Darlington, Co. Durham. ●



*Taking the prestigious title of Supreme Charolais Champion was 4-year-old Seawell Olympian bred and exhibited by P M & S M Donger of Towcester*



*Shorthorn Champion Team of Four Millie Hendy, Andrew Thornber & Daughters, David & Tom Bradley Farmer, Tina Russell and Simon Farmer*

The Beef Shorthorn breed celebrated its 1822-2022 Bicentenary with an International Congress including a National Show within the Great Yorkshire. Beef Shorthorn enjoyed tremendous interbreed success winning the Blythewood Pairs, Junior Fours and Senior Fours. ●



During three days of celebration of its 50th Anniversary, the British Limousin Cattle Society held a special Anniversary Sale at Borderway Mart on Friday 29 July with 14 lots averaging £14,223. Leading the day's trading at 26,000gns was the bull calf Jalex Superb from James Alexander selling to Mr G Cameron, Acharrade, Argyll. This was preceded by a tremendous Open Day on Thursday 28 attended by 2,600+ people at Whinfellpark Limousins near Penrith courtesy of Allan Jenkinson. Friday and Saturday saw national commercial and pedigree shows with over 200 entries. ●



*Clockwise from the top:*

*Jalex Superb  
26,000gns*

*Commercial  
Champion Maggie  
B&L Wilkinson*

*Pedigree Champion  
Upperffrydd Power  
Thor Atkinson*

## UK SIRES AT 21

**UK Sire Services celebrated its 21st Birthday at an event in Devon on Sunday 17 July**

Rob and Sue Wills had set up UK Genetics Ltd in 1991 as a stand-alone company to re-ignite cattle semen exports from all of the major UK bulls studs in the wake of the BSE crisis. Growth was initially swift but was severely impeded by the second BSE outbreak in 1996 later picking up again until the 2001 outbreak of FMD. This slammed the doors for livestock and genetics exports again and also spelled "time" for the Dartington Cattle Breeding Centre.



*Group of British Red Angus F1 out of Nelore*

Exports remain core to the whole business with overseas clients who understand, respect and demand only the best British genetics. The last 21 years has seen sales from 38 different breeds to 50+ countries. These vary in volume from the extremes from Brazil (Angus) and Rwanda (Jersey Island) to tiny Atlantic islands like St Helena and Tristan da Cunha using semen from various British breeds to maintain their sustainable breeding programmes. ●



*British Angus F1 calf on Nelore dam*

Having been offered the opportunity to bid for the facilities at Dartington, the tender was won in 2001 and UK Sire Services was born thanks to widespread industry support and individual investment.



*Made in Britain*

*Geoff Corke (centre back) and Rob Wills (right) with Mexican and Brazilian clients at Stirling Bull Sales in 2010*



**UKSIRES**

## UKTAG AT ILDEX VIETNAM

**The 8th International Livestock, Dairy, Meat Processing and Aquaculture Exposition (ILDEX) took place in Vietnam 3-5 August**



*Explaining the UK pig offering*

The first livestock Expo held in SE Asia since Covid, ILDEX proved vibrant with both buyers and exhibitors excited at being able to talk again directly person-to-person. With over 350 exhibitors from 30 different countries, the event attracted an audience of more than 12,000 visitors over the three days.

UKTAG's booth hosted two pig

breeding companies Deerpark Pedigree Pigs and Rattlerow Farms with enquiries taken and meetings arranged. Also participating were Collinson Ltd and Vitec Aspida bringing food storage and disease control technology respectively to the UK stand. Livestock development remains high priority for the Vietnamese Government. ●

**UK TAG**

## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

This new website promotes all aspects of AgriTech from the UK with special emphasis on Livestock and Genetics. Each overseas event includes a listing of participating companies to help exhibitors raise their profiles internationally. ●



# Agritech UK

[WWW.AGRITECH-UK.ORG](http://WWW.AGRITECH-UK.ORG)

## INVITATION TO SOMMET DE L'ELEVAGE

There is an opportunity for two key UK buyers to visit the Show which takes place 3-6 October 2022 in Clermont-Ferrand, France and brings together 1,500 exhibitors, nearly 100,000 visitors and over 2,000 animals (beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, and horses).

Accommodation and travel included.

For further information, please email:

Henry Lewis [livestockgenetics@outlook.com](mailto:livestockgenetics@outlook.com) as soon as possible. ●

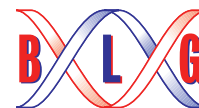


## SELECTED OVERSEAS EXPOS 2022

Event Name	City	Country	Date
*Expo Prado / UK Agri-Tech Mission	Montevideo	Uruguay	12-14 September
*Sommet de l'Élevage	Clermont Ferrand	France	3-6 October
*EuroTier	Hannover	Germany	15-18 November

\* Support available for eligible companies

For further details and information on funding opportunities please email UKTAG's Chris Jackson [exports@uktag.co.uk](mailto:exports@uktag.co.uk)



UKTAG

AHDB  
EXPORTS

The British Livestock Genetics (BLG) website continues the work of promoting the UK livestock and animal breeding sector to a global audience.

Please visit [www.britishlivestockgenetics.com](http://www.britishlivestockgenetics.com) for all the news, report and details of upcoming events.

For further information on Genetics and Livestock Exports, please contact Richard Saunders on **07901 768904** or [richardsaunders1965@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardsaunders1965@yahoo.co.uk)