



Department of  
**AGRICULTURE  
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AUSTRALIA**



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## **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/15**

### **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY: UPDATE ON EXPORT MARKET ACCESS WORK PROGRAM FOR LIVE ANIMALS**

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides a status report on Animal Biosecurity's export market access work program.

Animal Biosecurity negotiates with trading partners and participates in international fora to maintain, gain or improve access to export markets for live animals and their genetic material. This is achieved by means of a range of long term strategies and, in the shorter term, by negotiating on a case by case basis in response to issues as they arise.

Export market access opportunities are pursued through informal and formal contacts, detailed submissions, research, support activities, two way visits and missions as well as involving ministers to pursue particular issues. In many instances, progress on issues is in the hands of the relevant authorities in the importing country, which in turn is dependent on their priorities and resources.

Broad strategies include:

- . identification of over-restrictive import conditions in existing markets;
- . the development of new market opportunities specific to countries/markets identified by industries;
- . participation in the 'Supermarket to Asia' program;
- . further development of a northern Australia cattle export enhancement scheme;
- . the development of bilateral protocols with New Zealand to explore opportunities for greater equivalence;
- . negotiation of an Australian/European Union veterinary agreement; and
- . submission of proposed changes to Office International des Epizooties (OIE) code chapters.



Centenary of Federation

Edmund Barton Building  
Barton ACT  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601  
ph +61 2 6272 3933  
fax +61 2 6272 5161  
[www.affa.gov.au](http://www.affa.gov.au)

ABN 24 113 085 695

More specific projects include:

- . the development of new or revised quarantine requirements to facilitate the export of ruminants and their genetic material to the Americas, the Middle East, the EU, eastern Europe, Africa and the Asia-Pacific;
- . assisting in the development of a system to enable the regular production of two year freedom maps for bluetongue viruses as per the revised OIE code recommendations;
- . supporting research into aspects of specific diseases which impact on the export of ruminants eg infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, bluetongue and ephemeral fever;
- . funding research into the duration of bluetongue viraemia in ruminants, culicoides repellent action and delineation of bluetongue seasonal free regions;
- . training in bluetongue serology in China;
- . the development of information papers on the export of ruminants through northern ports and bluetongue regionalisation;
- . the development of information papers on individual diseases of trading significance - bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis, arboviruses, leptospirosis, bovine herpesviruses, Johne's disease and bovine pestiviruses;
- . negotiations with trading partners requiring the use of dihydrostreptomycin treatment of ruminants for leptospirosis; and
- . negotiations over requirements for brucellosis and tuberculosis testing for ruminants from Australia.

Some recent achievements in gaining new or improved market access for Australian animals and genetic material include:

- . the successful negotiation of a protocol for breeding pigs to Brazil;
- . agreement that AQIS may inspect and certify establishments on behalf of the Servicio Agrícola Ganadero de Chile for the export of bovine, ovine and caprine semen and live sheep to Chile;
- . agreement with Egypt on health conditions for the export of breeding sheep;
- . successful negotiation with Japan of alternative Johne's disease requirements for Australian feeder and slaughter cattle;
- . acceptance by Kuwait of Australia's freedom from bovine brucellosis, thereby deleting the testing requirement for breeding cattle;
- . negotiation of a protocol for the export of camelids to Malaysia;
- . negotiation of conditions for breeding cattle to Poland;
- . successful negotiation of conditions for the export of camelids to Switzerland; and
- . agreement by the United Arab Emirates' authorities to proposed health requirements for the export of breeding cattle.

Although much of the export market access effort is opportunistic and driven by events beyond our control, it is intended that areas of future activity will include:

- . Mexico - breeding and feeder cattle
- . USA - feeder cattle
- . China - breeding cattle, bovine semen and embryos, breeding sheep
- . Korea - feeder cattle
- . Hungary - breeding cattle and sheep
- . Japan - breeding cattle
- . Indonesia - breeding and feeder cattle.

To assist in considering priorities for market access work, Animal Biosecurity's second export workshop with livestock exporters and state governments is planned for late 2001.

An Animal Biosecurity officer has recently visited Poland and Hungary to discuss conditions for breeding cattle and sheep. Later this year, Animal Biosecurity officers are planning to visit Mexico and the Gulf countries for further discussion on livestock export conditions.

Attached is a consolidated list of Animal Biosecurity's export market access work program (Attachment A). It is intended to circulate to stakeholders on a regular basis an update of our recent activities in the area of export market access.

Further information is available from the contact officer whose details appear below.

DAVID BANKS  
General Manager  
Animal Biosecurity

Contact Officer:	Geoff Ryan
Telephone no:	02 6272 5138
Facsimile no:	02 6272 3399
E-mail:	geoff.ryan@affa.gov.au