

CATTLE GENETICS EXPORT SEMINAR AT THE EKKA

A free seminar to outline the opportunities for exports of beef and dairy cattle genetics will be held at the Ekka on Wednesday, August 8 in RNA Meeting Room No. 1. Starting at 12.30pm, the seminar will be co-sponsored by the Australian Registered Cattle Breeders Association (ARCBA) and Queensland Country Life.

ARCBA believes that Australia could become the stud cattle farm of the world. Our large herd size, relative freedom from infectious diseases and world class recording systems mean that we have a strong advantage in the export market which is yet to be fully exploited.

Gill Stassen of the International Livestock Resources and Information Centre (ILRIC) will release projections of the international demand for Australian genetics.

Interests in dairy heifer exports has been sparked by strong demand from China, Mexico, Russia and Turkey. The quality assurance procedures required for some of these markets will be outlined by Matt Shaffer of Holstein Australia. LiveCorp will also review Australia's exemplary performance in the number of live cattle exported for breeding in recent years.

Russia has recently entered the market for beef and dairy heifers, bulls, semen and embryos to rebuild its beef and dairy herds. This market could absorb over 40,000 head per year of heifers at a premium price. Seven of Australia's *Bos taurus* beef breeds have signed on to export standards which were used for the first time in June when 2000 Angus and Hereford breeding cattle were exported to Russia by Austrex. Graham Truscott of Angus Australia will describe the standard while Justin Slaughter of Austrex will outline the logistics of using an export standard, the feedback on the recent shipment to Russia and Australia's market prospects for live exports.

For many years Australia has been a net importer of genetics in the form of semen and embryos. Dr Chris Braniff of the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association will discuss the imbalance and how our industry might reverse the trend.

For some time ARCBA has been advocating that substantial funding be put behind the Australian Cattle Genetics Export Agency. These representations are now gaining some traction with a Task Force being formed to consider the issues and report to the relevant industry groups in August and subsequently to Government. The Task Force includes representatives of MLA, Australian Dairy Farmers, ILRIC, ARCBA, LiveCorp, Cattle Council and the AI industry. ARCBA's Executive Director, Dr Arthur Rickards will outline ARCBA's view of the export opportunities for the Australian cattle seedstock industry.

The Seminar will be Chaired by Dr Keith Entwistle, is expected to run to 3.15pm and is guaranteed to be thought provoking. It is open to all sectors of industry – breeders, exporters, agents, the AI industry and breed society representatives. There are 100 seats for the Seminar. To ensure a seat, please register with Laura on 02 67 73 3555 or just turn up early.

Authorised by:

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