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ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/31

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; and
- . submission of proposed changes to Office International des Epizooties (OIE) code chapters.

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;

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- . assisting in the development of a system to enable the regular production of two-year freedom maps for bluetongue viruses in accordance with the revised OIE code recommendations;
- . supporting research into aspects of specific diseases that 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;
- . 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 and other species for leptospirosis; and
- . negotiations over requirements for brucellosis and tuberculosis testing for ruminants from Australia.

As part of these strategies, Animal Biosecurity has recently visited the following countries for bilateral technical discussions: Mexico, the USA, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. In the near future visits will be made to China, Vietnam, the bluetongue affected Member States of the European Union, the European Commission in Brussels and South Africa.

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

- . Vietnam's agreement to drop most bluetongue requirements. In February 2002 further negotiations resulted in a successful shipment
- . Acceptance of model health certificate for the export of Pacific oysters from Tasmania to Vietnam
- . Agreement by Indonesia to conditions for fresh and chilled porcine semen
- . Agreement by Indonesia for improved conditions for feeder sheep and goats
- . Agreement by Egyptian officials to health conditions for breeding cattle
- . Agreement by South African authorities to remove tuberculosis and brucellosis testing requirements from conditions for alpacas to South Africa
- . Signing of a protocol for the export of camelids to China
- . Signing of a protocol for the export of cattle semen and embryos to China
- . Conclusion of negotiations on the export of horse semen to New Caledonia
- . Poland's acceptance of model health certificates for exports of cattle semen and embryos

- . Acceptance and implementation of improved conditions for feeder cattle to Malaysia
- . Agreement on conditions for the export of day old chicks to Malaysia (on hold due to Newcastle Disease outbreak in Victoria).

To assist in considering priorities for market access work, Animal Biosecurity regularly meets with livestock exporters and State and Territory governments. This includes participation in the quarterly meetings of the Australian Livestock Exporters Council's Protocol Committee.

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, breeding pigs
- . Taiwan - feeder and breeding cattle
- . Korea - feeder cattle
- . Hungary - breeding cattle and sheep
- . Japan - breeding cattle
- . Vietnam - feeder and breeding cattle
- . Indonesia - breeding and feeder cattle and breeding pigs
- . Egypt - breeding and feeder cattle
- . Jordan - breeding cattle
- . Israel - feeder cattle and slaughter deer
- . Syria – ruminants

Attached is a consolidated list of Animal Biosecurity's export market access work program (Attachment A). It is our intention 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. We would welcome comments on this ABPM and the work program.

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