

Historic import of british sheep genetics

Cabaña Las Magnolias received its first shipment of Texel embryos, a British sheep breed of high genetic value. Las Magnolias had taken the previous steps to import embryos of Hampshire Down and Texel sheep on 21 September, with the advice of Cabaña Don José de Uruguay for the Texel breed, and Cabaña Don Luís for the Suffolk breed.

This acquisition comes a year after the opening of imports from the UK, achieved through coordinated work between the Paraguayan Association of Sheep Breeders (APCO), the Association of Texel Producers, the National Animal Health and Quality Service (SENACSA) and the British Embassy in Paraguay.

Speaking to local media, Las Magnolias owner Johanna Bottrel said:

It was a historic event for Paraguay (. . .) the arrival of the Texel breed embryos from the UK, they are the first embryos to arrive in our country.

It is something to celebrate at a national level for the sheep-culture, especially for the Texel breed, it is like moving ten steps forward.

As part of the local activities for the promotion of British genetics, the Texel Paraguay Association and Cabaña Las Magnolias will present a field trip "Why use Texel?" next Saturday, October 8th from 9:00 to 13:00 hours, at the headquarters of Las Magnolias in Coronel Oviedo. For more information about this event, please contact (0972) 139 560.

Sheep development cooperation

The Department for International Trade (DIT) of the British Embassy in Paraguay began conversations in mid-2020. Working with SENACSA and its British counterpart, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Paraguay opened its market for imports of British sheep genetics after a 10-month bilateral technical dialogue.

Following the opening of the market, DIT in conjunction with the British Organisation for Technology, Genetics and Agriculture (UKTAG) organised a trade mission to the UK in June 2022. Three sheep breeders from Paraguay participated and visited the genetic establishments in England.

Gonzalo Grosso, DIT Officer in Paraguay said:

All this is possible thanks to the joint work, and especially thanks to the collaboration with SENACSA. We will continue to build

on the progress made so far, promoting British sheep farming in Paraguay.

UK's ovine leadership

The UK is one of the top 10 sheep-producing countries in the world, and the largest in Europe in terms of numbers and exports, with some 90 sheep breeds. Paraguay already has local producers breeding British breeds of sheep, such as Hampshire Down and Texel, the latter being a British-Dutch hybrid. This new achievement reaffirms Paraguay as a centre for the production of world-class sheep genetics.

United Kingdom offers export certification for:

- sheep semen and embryos to the 27 members of the European Union
- semen to Brazil, Canada and the United States
- semen and embryos to Chile, Guyana, Mexico, New Zealand and other countries

[Sheep leaflet](#) (PDF, 1.03MB, 8 pages)