

ERFP Country Report 2011 – 2012

COUNTRY: United Kingdom

reported by: Louisa Bagshaw

Strategic Priority Area 1:

Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring of Trends and Associated Risks

Actions undertaken during the past year

1. The Farm Animal Genetic Resources Committee met three times in 2011/12 and continued to advise UK Government and Devolved Administrations on FAnGR issues. Full terms of reference can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/>
2. The Committee revised and published (in January 2012) on the FAnGR website its recommended "Definitions for use in the UK National Inventory and FAQ". These included definitions of breed, native breed, feral, breed at risk and geographical concentration. The 'Definitions' can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/documents/>
3. The Committee has further developed the proposal for a UK electronic monitoring system for farm animal genetic resources of all major UK FAnGR species (i.e. cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, goats and equines).
4. The Committee has been updating the lists of breeds present in the UK and their designation (including as native, exotic and other non native, and at risk). The lists are important for identifying breeds eligible for agri-environment measures under EU Rural Development programme rules, highlighting breeds eligible for special measures in the event of an exotic disease outbreak and for monitoring 'at risk' status. The lists will be published on the FAnGR website shortly at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/>
5. Work is underway to update in 2012 the UK Country Report on FAnGR 2002 and the National Breed Inventory. Letter to commission provision of the Inventory breed data were issued to breed societies on 1 May 2012 and a copy is available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/news-and-events/> .

Actions planned for the next year

1. Publish the new UK Country Report and updated National Breed Inventory in Autumn 2012.
2. Finalise proposals for a UK electronic monitoring system.

Strategic Priority Area 2:

Sustainable Use and Development

Actions undertaken during past year

1. Continued discussion within Defra and Devolved Administrations on measures to be put in place to protect valuable genetic resources in the event of a disease outbreak. A new 'UK [Native] Breeds At Risk Register' (UK BARR) is to be published shortly at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/>
2. The Committee is continuing to review conservation measures available in the UK under the EU Rural Development Programme. A new list of UK Native Breeds at Risk Register (NBAR) for use in UK Rural Development Programmes is to be published shortly on the FAnGR website. The Committee also contributed to the English and Welsh consultations on development of the European Rural Development Programme/CAP Reform post 2013, stressing the importance of supporting measures to protect and sustainably conserve FAnGR.

3. The UK Defra Food Authenticity Programme has completed a project about the verification and traceability of meat from traditional breeds and the work has been published.

Actions planned for the next year

1. Further input into CAP Reform negotiations, both at the primary legislative instrument and the detailed implementing regulations level.

Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

(please give details for the most relevant institutions for national genebanks / cryopreservation in the table in Annex 1)

Actions undertaken during the past year

1. UK native breeds at risk (NBAR) continued to be supported under agri-environment schemes through a supplementary payment for NBAR grazing in appropriate habitat areas. For instance in England, there are now over 1,000 agri-environment scheme agreements in place covering a grazing area of over 44,750 hectares.

Actions planned for the next year

1. The Committee's Technical Sub-Group identified a need to develop a co-ordinated in situ and ex situ National FAnGR Conservation Strategy for breeds at risk. Defra is considering how this need might be addressed.

Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, Institutions and Capacity-building

1. The Farm Animal Genetic Resources Committee (FAnGR) continues to provide advice on farm animal genetic resources issues to Government and other stakeholders. The FAnGR website for the Expert Committee is at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/>

2. The FAnGR Committee publishes Newsletters reporting on its activities. The Newsletters can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/news-and-events/>

3. The FAnGR Committee is developing a 'Communications Strategy' so that it can better support the effective use and conservation of FAnGR

4. The 2011 Biodiversity Strategy for England was published and reinforces the message that 'agricultural genetic diversity is conserved and enhanced wherever appropriate'. The report can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/biodiversity/uk/>

5. The Foresight Report on Global Food and Farming Futures was published and reinforces the message that 'preservation of ... rare breeds is very important in maintaining a genetic bank of variation that can be used in the selection of novel traits'. The report can be found at <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/foresight/docs/food-and-farming/11-546-future-of-food-and-farming-report.pdf>

Annex 1: List of relevant national institutions for national Genebanks / Cryopreservation Experts

institution, address, e-mail, homepage, phone / fax	contact person / expert incl. e-mail	animal species	type of genetic material	remarks
Rare Breeds Survival Trust – Gene bank https://www.rbst.org.uk/conservation-projects?project=3	https://www.rbst.org.uk/contact-rbst	Protects listed farm species https://www.rbst.org.uk/watchlist.pdf	Includes a collection of semen from cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and equines; and embryos and other genetic samples.	
The Frozen Ark http://www.frozenark.org/	enquiries@frozenark.org	Conserve the genetic resources of the world's endangered animal species	Frozen viable cells http://www.frozenark.org/animals-ark	Not known to include genetic material from farm animals (to be confirmed)
Further details to be gathered about other collections (The Sheep Trust, Cobthorn Trust, Roslin Institute DNA Bank and Genus)				
Further details to be gathered about the Ovine Semen Archive Limited https://www.rbst.org.uk/rbst-take-action-protect-native-sheep-genetics		Sheep	Semen	
