

## ERFP Country report 2010 – 2011

**COUNTRY:** United Kingdom

**reported by:** Frances Radcliffe

### 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 (NSC FAnGR) <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/> continued to meet on a quarterly basis to work on the 38 Recommended Actions (RA) in the UK National Action Plan <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/2011/05/12/end-of-term-report-2008-2011/>
2. The Committee produced and published on the FAnGR website its recommended “Definitions for use in the UK National Inventory and FAO”. These included definitions of breed, native breed, feral, breed at risk and geographical concentration <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/documents/>
3. The Committee produced and published on the FAnGR website its recommended lists of native breeds at risk to be protected from culling as far as possible, subject to biosecurity requirements, in an outbreak of exotic disease <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/documents/>
4. A report on the structure of the beef industry was produced through a PhD student research project.
5. Publication of the Poultry Structure Report, which is available on the FAnGR website <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13451-uk-poultry-faw-101209.pdf>
6. UK pig breeds updated on EFABIS.
7. The Committee’s Identification, Monitoring and Characterisation (IMC) sub-group has met frequently between quarterly meetings this past year to discuss developing a blueprint for a UK monitoring system for farm animal genetic resources.
8. Work continuing on developing robust criteria for the calculation of population numbers.

Actions planned for the next year

1. Updating the 2002 National Breed Inventory and EFABIS by 2012.
2. Devise a simple and low cost monitoring system for farm animal genetic resources using, if possible, information held electronically by breed societies.

### Strategic Priority Area 2:

#### Sustainable Use and Development

Actions undertaken during past year

1. Continued discussion within Defra and other Devolved Administrations on measures to be put in place to protect valuable genetic resources in the event of a disease outbreak.
2. The Committee has completed a comprehensive review of the breeds present in the UK to determine which should qualify as ‘native’ and eligible for the various rural support measures.
3. The Committee is continuing to review conservation measures available in the UK under the EU Rural Development Programme. Currently the UK is alone in paying nn
4. The Committee advised on the conservation and sustainable use of a population of honey bees on a Scottish Island.

5. The Committee has contributed to the Farm Animal Welfare Council's (FAWC's) <http://www.fawc.org.uk/> study of the animal welfare implications of animal diseases. It drew attention to role that genetics can play in enhancing resilience and increasing resistance to certain diseases depending on breeding objectives.
6. The Committee has advised Government on cloning.
7. Key research projects have produced final reports <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/research/>.
  - A final report is available on "A study of the scope for the application of research in animal genomics and breeding to reduce nitrogen and methane emissions from livestock based food chains" <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=14662&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=AC0204&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>
  - Review of molecular characterisation studies relating to UK Farm Animal Genetic Resources <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=16592&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=IF0180&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

#### Actions planned for the next year

1. Review support available under EU agri-environment schemes to support native breeds at risk.
2. The Committee has developed a list of funding priorities and is continuing to work to identify potential funding routes to support these key research areas <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/research/>

### **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. Native breeds at risk continued to be supported under agri-environment schemes through a supplementary payment for grazing in appropriate areas.
2. The Committee supported the Centenary conference of the Shetland Cattle Herdbook Society <http://www.sac.ac.uk/news/currentnews/shetlandcattle/>

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

#### Actions undertaken during the past year:

1. Following the UK Government's 2010 review of 'arms length bodies' the National Standing Committee on Farm Animal Genetic Resources Committee (NSC FanGR) was reclassified as a Departmental Expert Committee (rather than a Non-Departmental Public Body). This new Farm Animal Genetic Resources Committee (FAnGR) will continue to provide advice on farm animal genetic resources issues to Government and other stakeholders. New FAnGR website for the Expert Committee <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/>

**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 <a href="http://www.rbst.org.uk/regeneration/main">http://www.rbst.org.uk/regeneration/main</a>	<a href="http://www.rbst.org.uk/contactus">http://www.rbst.org.uk/contactus</a>	Protects listed farm species <a href="http://www.rbst.org.uk/watch-list/main">http://www.rbst.org.uk/watch-list/main</a>	Includes a collection of semen, embryos and other genetic samples from all the species.	
The Frozen Ark <a href="http://www.frozenark.org/">http://www.frozenark.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:enquiries@frozenark.org">enquiries@frozenark.org</a>	Conserve the genetic resources of the world's endangered animal species	Frozen viable cells <a href="http://www.frozenark.org/animals-ark">http://www.frozenark.org/animals-ark</a>	Not known to include genetic material from farm animals (to be confirmed)

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