

THE NETHERLANDS

NATIONAL DEROGATION IN ANIMAL HEALTH LAW FOR COLLECTING, STORAGE, AND USE OF GENE BANK MATERIAL (CATTLE – SEMEN)

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Outline

- Intro slide - Dutch national gene bank for farm animals
- A bit of history
- Derogation details
- Further needs



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A bit of history (2)



- Couple of years of discussion with Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA)
- Advise from veterinary scientists/experts - risk assessments
- MoA/NVWA officially granted derogation in 2012
 - Specifically for CGN (cattle, conservation)
 - Not so much supported by (export oriented) livestock breeding/AI sector
 - Some opposition by some private farmers/breeders who claimed the same rights/derogations as the national genebank/CGN.



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Derogation letter (1-5-2012)



- Derogation by Ministry of Agriculture - Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA)
 - For CGN-WUR only – recognized national/public livestock gene bank
 - Conservation purpose (genetic diversity and cultural heritage)
- Key conditions of derogation (1):
 - Derogation (on farm collection of semen) restricted to a defined list of native, Dutch cattle breeds
 - Risk status of breeds: endangered or vulnerable
 - Max 5 bulls/breed/year
 - Semen can only be used in the Netherlands, export not allowed
 - Storage of semen restricted to CGN-Wageningen Campus, and duplicate collection at Veterinary Faculty
 - Agreement on detailed CGN (ISO certified) protocols for collecting on farm, processing, storage, and for the use of semen
 - CGN protocols are integral part of the derogation



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Derogation letter (1-5-2012)



- Key conditions of derogation (2):
 - Direct shipment of semen to end-user only (no trade)
 - Tracking and tracing of any individual doses of semen + monitoring of mating results
 - Veterinary checks - semen collection on farm
 - Farms to be free of tuberculosis, leucosis and brucellosis (and FMD)
 - Bulls to be tested on tuberculosis, leucosis and brucellosis
 - Additional tests on non-notifiable diseases: IBR, BVD, Campylobacter, Trichomonas (same as semen collection centres)
 - No quarantine period (different from semen collection centres)
 - Veterinary checks – use of old semen
 - Known veterinary status of semen collected in different periods (on AI station or on farm)
 - All semen can be used – based on risk assessment of veterinary experts
 - FMD test on semen (1:100) needed for semen older than 1972; Optional tests for BVD and IBR (depending on user)
- Annual audit by NVWA



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Further needs?



- Derogation for semen of other species
 - Not so much “pressure” (yet) or no need
 - Pigs
 - Only 2 endangered breeds
 - Bunte Bentheimer (transboundary)
 - Dutch landrace (semen collection has good sanitary status)
 - All pig semen currently in genebank has been collected at AI Center
 - Other livestock species
 - No/less limitations for on farm collection and national use
- Epididymal semen, embryo's/oocytes/tissue
- Better connection of genebanks to breeding programs (complementarity)
 - Currently gene banks not mentioned in animal breeding legislation
 - Genebanks need official recognition (in regulations) at national level



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