



MEDIA RELEASE
September 20, 2012

Independent veterinarian inspection clears Australian sheep of health concerns

An independent veterinarian from a leading World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) accredited veterinary practice has provided a clean bill of health for Australian sheep in Pakistan.

Dr Ulrich Wernery, the scientific director of the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory in the United Arab Emirates, inspected the sheep in a Karachi feedlot and found no evidence of exotic disease in the animals.

“These sheep do not suffer from any infectious diseases what so ever (sic) and should be professionally slaughtered for meat production without any delay to avoid any suffering and also to avoid any animal welfare concerns,” Dr Wernery concluded.

“It is of paramount importance to stop now the needless and unnecessary culling of healthy animals.”

(A copy of the report is attached to this release).

CVRL operates as a Government diagnostic centre for the United Arab Emirates and neighbouring countries, and provides diagnostic and pre-import testing.

It was intended that Dr Wernery would take blood tests from the sheep for analysis at the CVRL laboratory and Wellard would provide an update on the results of those tests. Unfortunately local authorities prevented Dr Wernery from taking blood samples from the sheep for further analysis. Wellard can only speculate what the motives for that restriction were given Dr Wernery's independence and reputation.

Wellard Managing Director Mauro Balzarini said Dr Wernery's report validated the continued statements from PK Livestock, Wellard and the Australian Government that the sheep are healthy, fit for human consumption and pose no health risk to other Pakistani livestock.

“Dr Wernery is an internationally recognised veterinarian and his assessment that the sheep are fit, healthy and disease free provides important independent, third party endorsement of the sheep's health status,” Mr Balzarini said.

In addition to Dr Wernery's visual inspection, blood tests taken from the sheep on arrival in Pakistan were cleared by the by Pakistan Veterinary Laboratories in an OIE accredited laboratory in Islamabad.

"We are confident that the sheep will pass any proper testing process without issue," Mr Balzarini said.

"The health and safety of the Australian sheep flock is recognised globally for providing a clean, safe food supply to many countries around the globe.

"These sheep have passed numerous animal health tests and inspections in numerous countries and remain fit for human consumption.

"I join Dr Wernery in pleading to the Pakistani authorities to immediately stop this cull of healthy sheep that can be safely consumed."

Mr Balzarini said PK Livestock's abattoir facilities, which are HACCP and ISO-accredited and OIE-compliant, would stand up to scrutiny throughout the world.

"PK Livestock has been our customer for decades and their operations are among the best we have witnessed in all the Middle East," he said.

"PK Livestock's reputation for quality and animal welfare attention is recognized throughout the entire region and it is unjust for them to endure this invasion of their property without any proper scientific rationale for the actions others have undertaken."

For further information please contact:

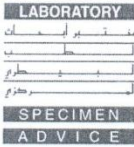
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(See next page for CVRL report compiled by Dr Ulrich Wernery, CVRL, United Arab Emirates)



Inspection of sheep at PK Livestock & Meat Co. on 19/09/2012 at 01:00 P.M.

As an independent veterinarian specialized in exotic animal diseases I was asked by Wellard Rural Exports to inspect sheep from Australia for infectious diseases which arrived in Karachi after being rejected by Bahrain Government.

During the inspection I personally went into 2 pens which harbored hundreds of sheep and I also had a look at many animals which had been Halal slaughtered. I especially checked eventual lesions around the lips, nose and eyes, and also between the feet.

My conclusion of the inspection is:-

- a) The animals were in good shape and exhibited no fever.
- b) None of the animals were lame which would indicate some blisters at the coronary band often seen in FMD
- c) When inspecting dead sheep no lesions were detected between the toes.

My investigation clearly emphasis that these sheep do not suffer from any infectious diseases what so ever and should be professionally slaughtered for meat production without any delay to avoid any suffering and also to avoid welfare concerns.

It is of paramount importance to stop now the needless and unnecessary culling of healthy animals.

Prof. Ulrich Wernery
Scientific Director of CVRL Dubai.

CENTRAL
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Background – Wellard Rural and Trading

Wellard is a world leader in the production and distribution of livestock and grain.

Its two largest subsidiaries are Wellard Rural Exports, Australia's largest livestock exporter and ship owner, and Wellard Agri, a large mixed farming land owner and operator specialising in the production of grains, legumes and livestock.

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for more than 30 years, and its investment in the live export industry is without peer. Based in Fremantle, Western Australia, the company's operations cover every aspect of the export chain, including feed milling, livestock aggregation, road transport, feedlot facilities throughout Australia and modern shipping.

The company's flagship carrier, the MV Ocean Drover (formerly the MV Becrux), is a purpose-built livestock carrier capable of carrying 75,000 sheep or 18,000 cattle to major markets around the globe. She was commissioned in 2002.

Two new, technologically advanced, purpose-built vessels, the MV Ocean Swagman and the MV Ocean Outback, were launched in 2010. They offer unparalleled levels of safety for the livestock, crew and vessel, and can transport 7000 cattle, 25,000 sheep, or a combination of both.

Wellard Agri owns and operates eight farms covering 33,000 hectares across three agri-hubs. The two northern hubs are located at Dongara and Watheroo in Western Australia's central midlands and one is located at Kojonup in the Great Southern region of WA.

The Dongara hub is home to The Grange, a 14,500 hectare property which is considered one of Western Australia's blue chip farming properties.

The remaining landholding totals more than 18,000 hectares, of which 14,000 hectares is cropped to a variety of grains and legumes. The other 4000ha is devoted to sheep production, including the famous Hyfield Poll Merino stud at Kojonup. In addition, Wellard leases an additional 14,500ha for livestock and grain production.

Wellard Agri also has operations in the farm machinery sector, through management of the CLAAS Harvest Centres at Katanning, Wongan Hills and Esperance for the Landpower range of farm machinery.

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