

---

## TLG promotes export opportunities

---



**A tour of TLG facilities by VIP visitors from China and a visit to the USA as a guest speaker by TLG managing director, Shane Ashworth, earlier this year have raised the profile of Australian genetics in both those major markets.**

"I believe there are some great opportunities for Australia, particularly with the strong Chinese interest in locally bred dairy heifers," Shane Ashworth says. "They will not take heifers from the USA or Canada because they can't be confident they are BSE free." (See *Top conditions for China bound heifers* page 2).

"There is also a lot of interest from Argentina and Chile in sheep and cattle embryos from Australia. They know we have good genetics and excellent disease-free status."

"We take it as a great compliment for TLG that the Federal Department of Agriculture selected us for a visit by a high level Chinese delegation including the head of their quarantine service. It's great to have that level of confidence from our federal authorities especially when we are relative newcomers to the export field."

The visiting Chinese delegation included Xia Hongmin, Director General AQSIQ Peoples Republic of China;

Ma Yuanlin, Deputy Director General and Feng Xueping, Director-Senior Veterinarian AQSIQ.

The invitation to the USA was from Certified Semen Services (CSS), the organisation that regularly checks TLG's compliance with the health requirements of the US industry.

"It was most encouraging for CSS to invite us to speak to the US industry about semen production issues in Australia," Shane Ashworth says. "They are very familiar with the work we are doing here and it was great for me to see the success of the product we are exporting to the USA"

"There is real interest in Australia as a supplier of genetic material and as a base for semen companies with global programs. They are looking for protection from problems such as Mad Cow Disease which limits their export markets. An Australian base will allow them to service their traditional markets free from this limitation."

---

**Above: Shane Ashworth (right) explains TLG health testing procedures to the visiting Chinese delegation and senior staff from AQIS/DAFF Canberra and Victoria.**

---

# Top conditions for China bound heifers

In an exciting new venture TLG is directly involved in livestock exports to China. Since May this year over 14,000 dairy heifers have been prepared for export to China at a livestock assembly area recently developed at the Glenormiston facility.

TLG has built impressive new yards at Glenormiston designed to handle 3000 heifers in a day as well as a first class grazing facility aimed at ensuring the heifers are in the best condition possible when they are transported to the ship.

During a stay of one month prior to shipping, the heifers undergo health testing and are acclimatised to a pellet ration in preparation for their sea journey.

"This is no feedlot," says Shane Ashworth. "We have created a well drained area with plenty of shelter belts and offer pasture at foot. The heifers are rotationally grazed in relaxed and relatively small groups."

"We are dealing with valuable breeding cattle in this project and we aim to provide good outcomes. We want the heifers in the best of shape when they leave us and to remain so until they are on-farm in China."

"We have been looking for opportunities in China for a couple of years to take advantage of our quarantine skills, our



Heifers at the new Glenormiston livestock assembly area.

good relationship with Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and our understanding of the export process."

TLG has joined with an Australian company, Austrex, in the heifer export project. The aim is to provide high quality quarantine before export and add value to the process by taking embryos and semen into the Chinese market.

The heifers will have a National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) eartag which will enable them to be tracked from their property of origin to the destination farm in China.

"The China export project fits well with

our mantra of doing things differently and well" Shane says. "We hope it leads to new opportunities for our customers who are involved in developing and marketing genetics."

"We will be offering training in handling for the Chinese who have purchased the heifers with the aim that they get the very best outcome. We hope that will lead to further sales."

---

**"The China export project fits well with our mantra of doing things differently and well. We hope it leads to new opportunities for our customers who are involved in developing and marketing genetics."**

---

## New Glenormiston semen collection facilities

**TLG now has a new semen collection site located at the Glenormiston property. Along with the development of the new facility, the house at Glenormiston will be renovated to become the main administration centre for TLG. Access to the Camperdown site is now on a more restricted basis.**

This will allow the Camperdown collection facility to meet the most

stringent quarantine protocols required by some EU markets.

Shane Ashworth says the main issue driving the change is a very mild strain of the cattle disease Infectious Bovine Rinotraceutis (IBR) which occurs in some Australian beef herds.

"Requirements for EU markets have been tightened and they will not accept semen from a collection centre which has IBR positive bulls," he says. "To deal

with this effectively we need two levels of quarantine. The Camperdown site now meets the most stringent health protocols while the new facility at Glenormiston can house bulls with IBR which qualify for markets with less stringent requirements."

"Bio-security is going to be an increasingly important issue for export sales. Companies that don't move forward in this area will be restricted in the export markets they can supply."

# Sex sorted semen trials

**Innovative collaborative research between TLG and Sydney University could result in an exciting new approach to sex sorted semen in cattle. Frozen dairy semen produced at TLG will be sent to the semen sexing facility at Sydney University where it will be thawed, sorted and refrozen and sent back to TLG for distribution to AI technicians.**

Professor Gareth Evans, head of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Sydney University says world-leading research carried out at Sydney involves a completely new approach to semen sexing.

"We have already disproved the dogma that you can't thaw and refreeze semen in sheep trials and have produced lambs through invitro fertilisation. The next step is to do it through normal insemination. We are keen to apply the same technique to cattle on a commercial scale."

"If the trials are successful the technique has the potential to have sex sorted semen available from virtually any bull. Currently there is a very limited supply of sex sorted bull semen available only at a very high cost. Theoretically we could take semen from any source, thaw it, sort it and refreeze it ready for normal insemination."

The trials to be conducted in conjunction with TLG are funded by a grant from the Geoffrey Gardner Foundation and will be managed by chief researcher Dr Lindsay Gillan.

The process of separating the X and Y chromosomes depends on the discovery that an X carrying chromosome has slightly more DNA than a Y carrying chromosome. It is possible to stain the DNA with a fluorescent dye and pass the sperm in single file through a sorter which can detect the different fluorescence and separate the X and Ys just like a drafting gate. The process only works for live sperm so guaranteeing the sorted semen is of good quality.

TLG managing director Shane Ashworth says with access to a good population of bulls and a reputation for producing a high quality product TLG is excited to be part of the new research.

"Part of our mission statement is to link the needs of producers to new technology and we know sex sorted semen is something the industry has dreamed about for years," he says. "If these trials are successful the industry will have taken a big step forward."

Reading through this edition of Total Times it is pleasing to reflect on the continuing growth of our business and to be again



introducing new people. Ruth Coman, Livestock Quarantine Coordinator and Jake Harkness, Livestock Operations Manager have joined us since the publication of our last newsletter. As TLG continues to grow we are mindful of the need to look after the core of our business, our long standing clients, as well as the new business. That remains a priority objective and I am confident we are achieving it.

It is exciting for TLG to be engaged with Sydney University in collaborative research into sex sorted semen (See this page). We see this ground breaking research as an example of TLG fulfilling its mission statement.

I've recently been on holiday with my family which provided an opportunity to catch up on some reading and I was able to spend some time revisiting a favourite book of mine which spends several chapters defining 'quality'. What is quality and how to you achieve it? The author concludes that 'care' is a closely related word and I believe that is right. If you care about the outcome of an endeavour you have a good chance of producing a quality product. Conversely, if you don't care, you have very little chance of producing quality.

At TLG we have tried to make quality our mantra and I guess our clients are the best judge of whether we do that. But I am encouraged to believe we make a pretty good attempt. It is great to have staff at TLG who care about the job they do and always aim to deliver a quality product.

*Shane Ashworth  
Managing Director*

# Innovative merino AI program

**The successful ram semen collection program at TLG for the innovative Glendemar Merino Stud continues with an exciting new ram, 789, now on-centre for collection.**

"This Western Australian ram is the most exciting for early growth we have recorded at Glendemar," says co-principal Ben Duxson. "His progeny also possess other important attributes such as long bodies, open heads, long wool and soft, thin skin."

Semen from 789 will be exported to USA, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil. Also on centre for semen collection for export to the same countries is the Corriedale ram Son of Big Boy from Liberton Corriedale Stud. (Pictured right with TLG Ovine Services manager Brad Polkinghorne.)

During 2004 the Glendemar Group, which consists of 10 ram breeders from throughout Australia, joined 15,000

ewes through AI to 7 rams collected at TLG.

"With 150 commercial breeders involved in this program we are starting to see a growing network interested in developing the non-wrinkly, plain bodied animal we are breeding for," Ben says. "We also have a similar setup in South America."

For information on what is happening at Glendemar contact Dwain Duxson tel 03 5359 2292 or Ben Duxson tel 03 5359 2251 or plug into their website at glendemar@netconnect.com.au.

For information on Liberton Corriedales contact Jim Venters tel 03 5271 1232.



## New staff as growth continues

With TLG's continuing growth two new staff have joined the team since the publication of our last newsletter.

Ruth Coman was appointed Livestock Quarantine Co-ordinator in June 2004.

Ruth's responsibilities include helping Deb Emeny with quarantine protocols for exports and organising the health testing of bulls and rams as they come on centre. She also assists with sheep AI programs.



Ruth Coman

After gaining her Bachelor of Animal Science with Honours Ruth worked in cattle IVF programs before joining TLG. Those of our customers who have already met Ruth will know she is pretty enthusiastic about her work. "I absolutely love the job, it's stimulating and really interesting," Ruth says. "I enjoy working with animals and being in a job that helps breeders take advantage of opportunities. There is plenty of variety and TLG are great people to work with."

Jake Harkness a former dairyfarmer and Jersey stud breeder from Brucknell, Victoria joined TLG in June last year as Livestock Operations Manager. The job entails supervising all outdoor activities at Camperdown and Glenormiston and

allocating resources between the two properties.

"I was brought up on a dairyfarm and had been milking cows for 15 years and thought it was time for a change," Jake says. "Shane had done some ET work for me at home so I knew who I was going to work for and really looked forward to it as an exciting new challenge. I haven't been disappointed. It's very different from milking cows but I'm still working with stud cattle and loving it."

"It's a good feeling to be working with an industry leader and being involved in the great team spirit at TLG."



Jake Harkness

## Italian progeny test for young sires at TLG

Two young World Wide Sires Australia bulls, Perfect Partners Durham Playtime and his brother Perfect Partners Durham Pioneer, both standing at TLG

Camperdown, will be progeny tested in Italy simultaneously with their sampling in Australia. A recent shipment of 2000 doses of each was exported to Semenzoo, Italy.

Bred by Robbie Malcolm and his partner Alison McDonald at Invergordon in northern Victoria, Playtime and Pioneer were two of the early Regancrest Elton Durham sons to hit the ground in Australia. At the 2004 World Dairy Expo in Madison, USA, Durham was named Premier Sire of the Show with five Class Winners and more Top Ten placings than any other sire.

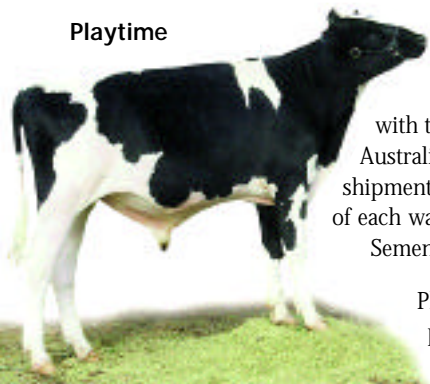
Their dam is the outstanding Skyline Rig Storm Perfect Imp ET VG 88. At 5 yrs 6

months she produced 11,534 lts Milk, 361 kg Protein, 3.1%P, 450 kg Fat, 3.9%F 305 days.

WWS Australia manager Peter Semmens says TLG played the major role in qualifying semen from the two bulls to meet EU protocols.

"TLG did a great job in collecting quality semen and co-ordinating the dispatch to Italy without a hiccup," he says. "Additional stocks of both bulls have been collected and will be stored until their proofs are known. In the interim Playtime and Pioneer will remain at TLG along with other WWS Australia PT bulls."

Playtime



Playtime will be placed in the Semen Italy

Program and Pioneer in the ELP Zoo program. Both bull studs run large PT programs and are home to many of the Italian sires marketed in Australia.

## High fertility semen 'nails every flush'

People frequently ask me how's that HOLADINO bull going," says TLG Semen Production Manager, Tony Urek. "It seems his reputation has preceded him, especially in Australia.

"Locally, HOLADINO has become a favourite with embryo technicians because he seems to nail every flush. It is clear his oocyte penetration capability must be at the highest level. This coupled with very good motility and longevity of spermatozoa makes a fertile animal."

A Canadian fertility study conducted in July 2004 rates HOLADINO as +3.4% above breed average on 2210 first inseminations. Tom Kroetsch, manager of production and quality control at Semex Alliance says HOLADINO is rated very near the top of his class based on his consistent sperm production, semen quality and his above average in-cow fertility under both AI and ET conditions.

"This high fertility pattern coupled with his outstanding genetics is what makes the bull such a global success story," he says.

HOLADINO semen collected and processed by TLG at Camperdown has been exported to over 20 countries which makes him the greatest export bull ever in Australia.

### Contact us



Phone 03 5593 2016  
Fax 03 5593 2630  
Email [tlg@tlg.com.au](mailto:tlg@tlg.com.au)

Postal address:  
PO Box 105  
Camperdown, VIC 3260

[www.tlg.com.au](http://www.tlg.com.au)