



IMTA Annual Report

2015





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MARKET SITUATION

A strong sterling made UK exports less competitive combined with the challenge of falling oil prices in certain export markets impacting purchasing power. The dynamic nature of Avian Influenza outbreaks has impacted international poultrymeat trade flows and in the UK exports to South Africa have been severely impacted. The pork crisis in Europe resulting from the Russian ban on EU exports has meant that export destinations have been oversubscribed with product, adding to pressures on exports. The new Ukrainian poultrymeat import quota has provided new opportunities, but overall the UK meat market has been challenging for importers.

IMTA GOVERNANCE – CHANGES

In March 2015 Doug Brydges retired as President of IMTA after 26 years. Margaret Boanas became IMTA Chairman in March 2015 and a new board of 17 directors was put in place to include 3 associate directors.

IMTA MEMBER VISITS

Katie Doherty visited 6 member companies as part of new members visit programme. These visits are an opportunity for staff in member companies to understand more about how IMTA can assist and for IMTA to better understand the needs and concerns of its members in order that it can better tailor its service and provide additional benefits.

UECBV

Margaret Boanas was elected President for International Trade for UECBV. In this role she met with EU Commissioner for DG Agri Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for DG Sante Andriukaitis and attended the UECBV Steering Committee.

Jean-Luc Meriaux gave IMTA members a presentation about UECBV and its work in Brussels. This event gave members an opportunity to ask questions about Brussels and the work of our European trade association.



MARKET INFORMATION

IMTA expanded its offering in the provision of market information to include The International Meat Trends, specialist reports on the supermarkets, impacts of AI outbreaks on poultry exports to South Africa and more specific statistics for individual members upon request.

IMTA

International Meat Trade Organization
224 Central Markets, London EC1A 9LH
Tel.: +44 (0)20 7489 0005
Email: info@imta-uk.org www.imta-uk.org



IMTA International Meat Market Trends

Issue No. 12: 18th January 2016

Beef

- Australian beef exports in 2015 virtually equalled the record set in 2014, totalling 1.28 million tonnes shipped weight. Exports to China, South Korea and the United States increased but tonnages fell to Indonesia, Taiwan, Philippines and the EU.
- In 2015 exports from the Mercosur countries fell by 7 per cent. Exports from Brazil were down but there was growth for Argentina and Uruguay. Exports in value terms were down for all the countries. Looking to 2016 relaxation of certain rules in Argentina and a general deterioration of the economic situation in the other Mercosur countries is expected to lead to a rise in exports.

Exporting Country	2015 ('000 tonnes)	% change 2015/14	2015 (US \$/t)	% change 2015/14
Argentina	139.0	+2.4	6510	-13.1
Brazil	1079.1	-12.1	4322	-8.4
Paraguay	269.6	-0.5	4127	-11.0



IMTA FORUM

The IMTA Forum attracted an attendance of around 80 members and government representatives.

Speakers included the Australian embassy, the US embassy, The FSA National Food Crime Unit, Professor Elliott, The FSA import/export division, Jean-Luc Meriaux of UECBV.

IMTA GOOD TRADING PRACTICE – PREVENTING FOOD FRAUD

IMTA launched its fraud guide at the forum. The guide has been commended by FSA and Professor Elliott.

IMTA has continued to encourage members to alert the secretariat to suspected scams and has shared this with the FSA Food Crime Unit. We have also developed our intelligence sharing networks linking in with TIFSIP, the Irish Embassy and Bord Bia.

In 2015 IMTA provided more information to members on emerging risks including reports on food safety and integrity conferences.



IMTA GOOD TRADING PRACTICE: PREVENTING FOOD FRAUD 2015



"By the very nature of fraud and criminal activity in food supply systems they can be extremely difficult to uncover until it is too late. Yet all food businesses, large and small are vulnerable and unless countermeasures are introduced can be destroyed reputationally and financially. This document produced by IMTA is an extremely important guide to meat traders and I very much encourage members to work towards implementing all of the measures that have been included."

Professor Chris Elliott,
Queen's University Belfast, Author of The Elliott review in to the integrity and assurance of food supply networks,
September 2014

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Anuga: Liz Murphy & Katie Doherty attended Anuga 2015 and met with ABIEC (Brazilian Beef Export Association), INAC (Uruguayan Beef export Association), The US Poultry & Egg Association, The Brazilian pork and poultry export association, AHDB, Meat & Livestock Australia, The Rainforest Alliance among others.

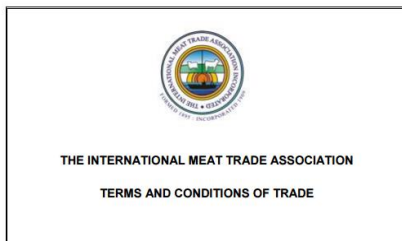


IMTA met with the EU Commission department for trade to discuss two way trade and opportunities for current and upcoming free trade negotiations.

Embassy engagement

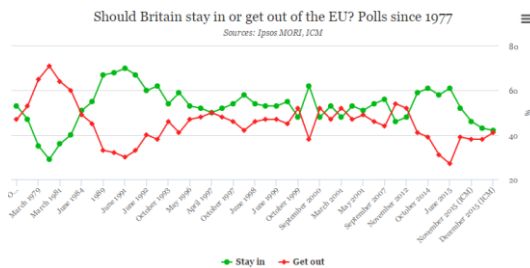
IMTA met with:

- The new US agricultural attaché to the UK
- The new Australian agricultural attaché to Brussels.
- The new Brazilian ambassador to the UK.
- The Uruguayan ambassador to the UK.



IMTA TERMS OF TRADE

The IMTA Terms of Trade were reviewed to reflect changes to the board structure and to make some small changes to the terms.



EU MEMBERSHIP

IMTA established an EU referendum working group which started to look at the possible implications for IMTA members.

EXPORTS

IMTA continued to work with UKECP and ECUG to increase market access opportunities and respond to and mitigate the impacts of disease outbreaks in the UK. IMTA participated in the Defra export forum meetings which discuss the UK overall food export strategy.

IMTA attended the UECBV Export Working Group to learn of the progress of other Member States and share these learnings with UK government.

IMPORTS

IMTA held a meeting of members to decide on an association position with regard to European Commission proposals to change the current TRQ system. IMTA worked with the UECBV Import Working Group to ensure the Commission did not take a radical approach to the review.

Sampling

IMTA continued to work with FSA, Port Health, Defra, FERA and members to work towards a service level agreement between members and the ports and labs and the ports.

SHEEPMEAT

IMTA was represented at the EU Sheepmeat Civil Dialogue Group to represent the imported sector and was invited to attend the EU Sheepmeat Reflexion Group.

IMTA worked with Defra, the UK ports and importers to smooth the changes for identity checks for New Zealand lamb.



BEEF

IMTA met with the Brazilian export association and the embassy regarding Brazilian export priorities for the EU. IMTA worked to encourage a positive dialogue within UECBV to work with the Brazilians rather than a less constructive approach threatening to block Brazilian imports unless progress was made for EU exports to Brazil.

IMTA continued to monitor any discussions related to the future of the grainfed quota.

PIGMEAT

IMTA worked with UKECP in progressing market access for Northern Irish pork and pigs trotters for the UK to the Chinese market.



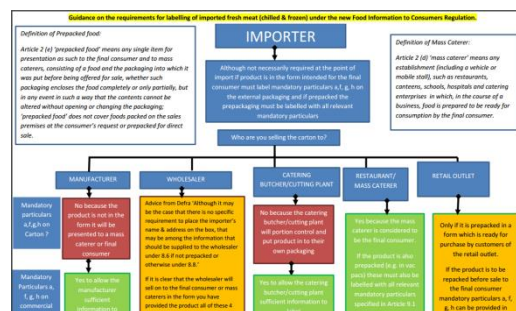
POULTRYMEAT

IMTA has been working closely with Defra to push for market access for poultrymeat to China.

IMTA attended the EU poultrymeat Civil Dialogue Group to represent the international trade sector.

GUIDANCE

In December 2014 the Food Information to Consumers Regulation came in to force followed by the Country of Origin Information requirements for poultrymeat, pork and sheepmeat from April 2015. IMTA issued guidance on this and was involved in the Meat Technical Working Group alongside other trade associations in order to provide clarification on aspects of the regulation.



VISITS

IMTA organised members' visits to the ports of Heathrow, London Gateway and Felixstowe to give members the opportunity to talk to the vets, see the port and the BIP facilities. A members' visit was also organised to the Rural Payments Agency to discuss the issuing of import licences and the guarantee system.





CORE SERVICE

IMTA also provided its core services to members in providing information, troubleshooting issues for individual members and developing the IMTA website. For further details of what IMTA can do for you please visit the website:

[WHAT IMTA CAN DO FOR YOU](#)

IMTA BOARD

Margaret Boanas, Chairman

Barry Chick

Bob Mollison

Brian Johnston

Brendan McIntyre

Guy Harmer

Ian Kelly

James Parsons

John Ressel

John Whitlam

Kenneth Hermansen

Mark Murphy

Neil Stokes

Norman Hatcliff

Paul Dolan

Rob Haesakkers

Sandy Murdoch



IMTA

The International Meat Trade Association

224 Central Markets, London EC1A 9LH
Tel: +44 (0)20 7489 0005
Email: info@imta-uk.org www.imta-uk.org