



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 28th AUGUST 2007

PROTECTION FOR NATIVE LIVESTOCK BREEDS

- RBST reports increased uptake into the Breeds at Risk Register

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) is contracted by Defra to provide verified information on a wide range livestock in order that listed breeds of cattle sheep, pigs and goats may be considered for special protection in the event of a major disease outbreak.

This is the basis of the Breeds at Risk Register (BARR). Registration is the essential gateway to the possibility of protection from contiguous culling in the event of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

Speaking in the wake of recent events around Pirbright, RBST Chairman Peter Titley said:

"Our staff processed over 1700 new BARR applications during the first weekend following the confirmation of FMD in Surrey. Work is also underway to extend the list of relevant breeds which already includes many so-called Heritage sheep."

The management and development of the BARR is the single most important means of protecting UK cattle, sheep and goat breeds which are either numerically small or geographically isolated and this extends those breeds currently on the RBST watchlist.

RBST Chief Executive Richard Clarke added:

"Any farmer and any susceptible species can get caught up in FMD and its aftermath and it is therefore vital that Breed Societies urge their members to co-operate with our efforts to provide an accurate picture of our native breeds - both in terms of numbers and of location."

The RBST is currently reviewing the composition of the BARR to extend the possibility of protection to a wider range of native sheep breeds. For further information contact Dr Dawn Teverson on 02476 696551 or dawn.teverson@rbst.org.uk

Ends

Notes for editor

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) is a charity established in 1973. It works to conserve more than 70 breeds of native farm livestock. The charity is funded by membership subscriptions, donations and legacies.

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