

Meeting Notes: Economic Development Committee Members (G. Voisin (President), L. Larnham, M. Taylor, L. Norman & P. Ryan), J Jackson, P Le Miere, J Lamy, D McQueen and others with D Frigot and D Hambrook (RIA&HS).

Date: 02/06/2005

Remit: D Frigot and J Godfrey had been invited to meet with EDC to discuss any items associated with the importation of pure Jersey semen and the ban on the importation of milk. J Godfrey was OOL. (Ref letter from G Voisin 19/05/05)

Documentation: P Le Miere had been tasked by EDC to prepare a paper for the meeting outlining the current situation and any recommendations for the committee to consider. The recommendations are as below;

- 1. Support the proposal to allow for the importation of semen and to convey this decision to the Environment and Public Services Committee.
- 2. Endorse the setting up of a working party to look at the arguments for the continuation of the ban on importation of milk if genetics are imported.

Key comments:

- 1. M Taylor confirmed that he had spoken to a number of dairy farmers recently who expressed support for the importation of genetics, if it was combined with an assurance that the local ban on the importation of milk would remain.
- ? 2. G Voisin confirmed that there should be no linkage between the importation of semen and liquid milk. The EU has already decided to make a commitment on the local ban in response to a challenge, but could revisit the decision at any time regardless as to whether semen is imported or not.
- 3. In reply to a question from GV, DIF advised the meeting that the Society did not intend to revisit the vote on importation. Further, all those on the PMNS, RJA Council and private individuals who currently indicated support for the importation of genetics accounted for over 50% of the milking cows currently on the island.
- 4. D Frigot advised the committee that following the recent MIDCet data release and base change the Island herd was falling even further behind the UK Jersey population in terms of both actual yield and genetic merit rates of improvement.
- 5. G Voisin believed the committee would be failing in its duty if it failed to give those dairy farmers that wish to be part of the industry's future access to the best genetics in order to allow them to be as efficient as possible. This was essential given the inevitable continuing reduction in subsidy payments to the agricultural industry.
- 6. D Hambrook supplied the meeting with figures showing the effect of reducing the services budget (Milk Recs and AI only) as planned in the Rural Strategy document alongside the predicted initial costs and eventual increase in income associated with the importation of genetics as calculated by J Jackson. The committee agreed that there appeared to be a 'pinch point' and the combined effect would be to delay the positive effects on income by two years. GV asked P M and D to review the options in view to delaying and amending reductions in the services budget.

EDC continued discussions on the above with E & PS. Group then discussed other items.

why -  
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feed?  
soil & climate?