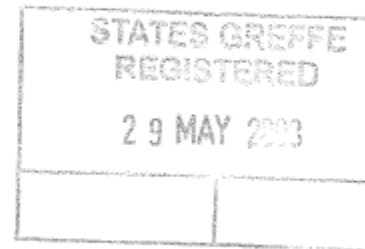


Deputy P. Ryan  
Chairman, scrutiny bull semen panel  
Morier House  
St. Helier  
JE1 1DD

May 24<sup>th</sup> 2008



Dear Deputy Ryan

**Proposed importation of bull semen**

I am writing to you and your scrutiny panel to express my opinion why the importation of bull semen should not be imported into the Island to sire the Jersey Cow.

Although now retired I have been in agriculture all my life and own agricultural land. Like my parents, grandparents and generations before them I have gained the knowledge and experience to comment on this very important subject.

During my time as an active farmer I have experienced a number of mistakes that by the industry that would have left Jersey agriculture in a very difficult position

1. During the late nineteen fifties early sixties the importation of Landrace pigs were permitted. The idea was to produce pork that did not produce so much fat as other breeds tended to produce and there would be no necessity for the butchers to import. All went well for a couple of years, some producers did very well financially, but after a short time the pork industry declined.
2. In 1969 Jersey Growers were granted permission to grow and export other varieties of potatoes other than the Jersey Royal. At the time, before the advent of the polythene mulch, these other varieties, mainly the Ulster Sceptre and Home guard, could be harvested within Ten weeks of planting against Twelve weeks for the Jersey Royal. The growing of other varieties turned out to be a fiasco, they very nearly ruined the export of the Royals. Fortunately a ban on growing other varieties for export was introduced which saved a disastrous situation for the Jersey producers.

3. About 10 years ago a restaurant owner in Jersey offered Canadian lobsters on his menu. The local fishermen were not at all happy because of a disease threat to the lobsters stocks found around the Channel Islands. The department of Agriculture and Fisheries immediately banned their importation.

It is my opinion that the risk of importing semen from overseas countries is far too great. There is a risk of disease or more importantly a virus, may even not be known to scientists yet, that may arrive through an imported batch of semen. If a disease or virus were to infect the Jersey cattle the home of the Jersey breed would be decimated, the future generations would no longer have a cattle industry that has made our Island cattle so famous. Also, there is a chance that human error or a dishonest person may supply semen that does not meet the requirements required and slips through.

Furthermore the Island has always had sufficient milk supplies for the consumer and with careful breeding within the cattle population the industry has a future that will last for many more generations for the benefit of both producers and consumers. It will require the price of milk sold by retailers to increase for the future profitability of the dairy industry.

Please, Deputy Ryan and members of your scrutiny panel consider my observations regarding the importation of bull semen, then recommend to the States of Jersey Assembly that the ban that has been in existence for over two hundred years continue long into the future.

I am prepared to give evidence to the panel and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your convenience.

Thank you for reading this letter and I hope the result will be favourable.

Yours sincerely



Max de la Haye