

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

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Review of Proposed Importation of Bovine Semen

I would like our representatives in the States of Jersey to be made fully aware of the irrevocable damage that would be caused should the importation of bull semen into the Island be permitted. Its introduction would forever alter the type of our cattle by interfering with the very special characteristics which are unique to the Jersey cow and have made her world famous for over 200 years. It is thanks to the expertise of true, genuine cattle breeders who over the years have dedicated their lives to creating and keeping true to type this beautiful animal which plays such a big part in enhancing the magic of our countryside.

We are told that the Jersey cow is lagging behind its counterparts in terms of milk production. In fact this is not the case. The John Ibbotson Cup for production was again won by an Island cow in April 2007 with 10,000kg milk, this competition being open to any Jersey cow in the British Isles.

In an interview with Mr Alan Taylor who has been the biggest importer of Jerseys into Australia, he said, 'I'm not frightened to express my views. Out in Australia we wouldn't be where we are if it weren't for the Island. If you imported semen you would be chucking away more than 150 years of genetic strength down the drain and you would lose your identity in one go. I think it would be the greatest insult to the founders of the breed. Also it is of crucial importance to note that Jersey is the only bovine country in the world which is 995 free of disease.'

L H Le Ruez