

Your guide to the BPA: British Pig Association

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The British Pig Association is the independent national pedigree registration organisation for 14 breeds of pig in the UK. Founded in 1884, the Association today is dedicated to the conservation of our native pig breeds. In partnership with the RBST, a genebank is being built to protect our breeds in the event of an outbreak of exotic disease. As part of our on-farm conservation programme we try to help small scale producers of pedigree pigs build sustainable rural businesses to ensure the long-term survival of our breeds in the farmyard. In support of this objective the BPA has launched a Pedigree Pork programme to promote finished pigs from pedigree breeders to independent butchers and assist with direct retailing of pork to consumers. Our Junior Pig Club works with schools to encourage the next generation of pedigree pig breeders and raise awareness of the link between consumption and conservation.

Eat Them to Save Them

The BPA website has an interactive search page for local suppliers of pedigree pork. The website also has full listings of suppliers of both breeding and finished pedigree pigs based on the latest information from the pedigree database. The BPA has always recognised the individual identity of the breeds within the association. Each breed elects its own representatives who are the first point of contact for members with questions about pedigree breeding or problems to be resolved. A full list of representatives is available from the BPA website.

BPA: who's who

Chairman pedigree pork and education committee:
Brian Kelly brianKelly134@gmail.com

Chairman pedigree show committee:
Steve Loveless portbredypigs@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman pedigree breed development and conservation committee:
Chris Impey chrisimpey@btinternet.com

Chief executive: Marcus Bates

BPA: Exports

The UK is home to some of the world's leading pig breeding and Agri-tech companies. UK Technology for Agriculture and Genetics (UK TAG) is the evolution of the British Pig Association's work on export promotion with the Department for International Trade (DIT).

Since 2002, BPA has worked with DIT to help UK companies in the sector become exporters. This includes managing the Trade Show Access Programme which offers grants of up to £2,500 to companies to attend trade shows. In 2020, working with the export team at AHDB and the British Livestock Genetics Consortium, we will continue to develop and implement a joined up strategy for export promotion.

The export strategy for pigs will focus heavily on China and Asia where we expect considerable new investments in breeding programmes in response to the losses resulting from African Swine Fever.

Covid 19 has had an impact on tradeshows and companies' ability to travel. Many events have been postponed into 2021 and so we expect this to be a very busy and crucial year in which we launch the UK as an independent trading nation. In response to this UKTAG has developed a model for hybrid exhibiting which allows companies to be represented at events and also have one to one meetings with visitors.



In partnership with



Department for
International Trade



UKECP is the Defra / Industry partnership dedicated to securing export market access for UK meat and livestock producers. The UK Export Certification Partnership (UKECP) was established in 2008. Over the last decade it has achieved considerable success in opening new markets and building an excellent example of partnership working between government and industry. The partnership has been instrumental in opening up markets for UK pork exports that continue to underpin profitability in the sector.

To address the increasing demand for exports and the challenge of Brexit, Export Certification Ltd (ECL), the non-profit industry arm of UKECP, has increased its contributions and taken on new roles and responsibilities within the partnership. ECL continues to receive invaluable support and contributions from Levy Boards: AHDB Beef and Lamb, AHDB Pork, Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales, Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland, and Quality Meat Scotland. Industry organisations: the Northern Ireland Pork and Bacon Forum, British Meat Manufacturers and Processors Association, International Meat Traders Association and the National Sheep Association as well as a wide range of individual companies and breed societies.

The partnership has worked closely with government to try and minimise the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit on exports of breeding pigs, genetics and pork. In particular pork to China which has reached £200m per year for UK producers.

The partnership holds regular meetings around the UK with Defra, APHA, FSA and the Devolved Administrations to review strategy and priorities including visits to the APHA Centre for International Trade in Carlisle to discuss EU Exit. As part of the preparations for our exit from the EU the partnership has been working closely with Defra to ensure that trade with non-EU countries can continue.

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