

Indonesia



This How to Know Cattle and Buffalo Populations in Indonesia

Thursday, 16 February 2017 - Mataram, Recording and a good evaluation activities on livestock sub-sector has a very important role, especially to determine the population of cattle and buffalo in Indonesia.

Said Director General of Animal Husbandry and Animal Health (DG PKH) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture) DVM. I Ketut Diarmita, MP in a statement on Thursday (16/02/2017). "This is certainly important, especially to know how the increased amount of cattle and buffalo population in Indonesia," said I Ketut Diarmita.

website: www.globalcompliance.asia

This Week Topics

Indonesia

- This How to Know Cattle and Buffalo Populations in Indonesia
- Amervi Supports Efforts to Boost Cattle Population of Interior
- Two Soes Team Up To Develop Livestock Industry
- Increase Beef Production, Ministry of Agriculture Will Develop Cattle Belgian Blue
- The Birth of "Gatot Kaca" Cow Belgian Blue in Indonesia
- RI-Australia Cooperation Increase Veterinary Service
- Price of Staples from The Ministry of Trade on Friday February 17th 2017

Australia

- SE Asia Report: Low-priced Spanish beef adding to flood of supply into Indonesia
- Indonesia Suspends Buffalo Meat Imports, but Unclear for How Long

Vietnam

- Beef and Dairy Livestock Asia 2017

China

- More Cases of Human Bird Flu in China Have Experts Worried

Global Compliance Indonesia
Office: Ruko Bidex Blok
I/12, Jl. Pahlawan Seribu,
BSD Tangerang
Selatan, 15321, Indonesia

Profile breeder cattle and buffalo in Indonesia, he added, referring to the data of the Agricultural Census 2013. Where there are around 5,114,921 homes beef cattle keepers stairs by the number of animals kept as many as 12,417,202 tails. "in other words, on average every household only 2-3 tail maintaining it. When compared with the number of beef cattle company 142 203 729 company that maintains the tail, or average per company maintains 1,435 individuals. the same condition also occurs in dairy cows and buffalo in Indonesia, "he explained.

further DG PKH delivered, the government is eager to encourage industrial cattle and buffalo more upstream, ie towards breeding and cultivation. Therefore, the government will strengthen the aspects of germination and seedling through the presence Center for Artificial Insemination Artificial Insemination Singosari and Hall Lembang, as well as 8 Hall breeding cattle to produce superior-quality seeds and seedlings.

I Ketut Diarmita also said, in order to accelerate the increase in the population of cattle and buffalo, the focus of development activities in 2017 was DG PKH Special Effort Required Cattle breeders Bunting (Upsus Siwab) with a target of 4 million head acceptors and 3 million cows pregnant. In accordance with Permentan No. 48 of 2016, improved reproductive management system in UPSUS SIWAB done via examination of reproductive status and reproductive disorders, IB and natural mating services, fulfillment of frozen semen and liquid N2, control and fulfillment of productive female forage and concentrates.

Other efforts made by the government to accelerate the increase in the cattle population, he explained, is through the implementation of the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture Number 49 Year 2016 on the Entry Large Ruminant into the Territory of the Republic.

In these regulations, importers are required to also include feeder cattle cattle breeders with a ratio of 20 percent for businesses and 10 percent for Farmers Cooperative and Farmers Group.

"Challenges development of cattle and buffalo in Indonesia one of them is the issue of institutional and business scale farmers. Therefore, the government set up various programs and policies in order to strengthen economic and institutional scale farmers through the efforts of: a) Shift the individual cattle rearing into the group with the pattern of the colony cage, thus meeting the economies of scale; (b) Development of crop livestock integration patterns such as cattle-oil palm integration; c) Development of pasture: optimization of ex-mine land and pasture area in eastern Indonesia; d) Facilitate Cattle Insurance (AUTS), "he explained.

Associated with the development of cattle in the province, Rosyadi Sayuti, NTB Regional Secretary stated, the current NTB has progam Million Cows (BSS). "We must restore dignity of the NTB raising because the first NTB ever export of cattle, so that now the program Earth BSS is expected to repeat the history of it back," he said.

While Sunarpi, Rector of the University of Mataram expect academics in Unram can contribute to the development of animal husbandry and health animals.

Expert Bio Ecosystem Padang Grazing and Nutrition Ruminant, Suhubdy Yasin said, NTB, in addition to having the potential for development of cattle Bali, also has the potential for development of buffalo mud on the island of Sumbawa. "for buffalo mud on the island of Sumbawa we should keep and save from the disease surra and SE (Septichemia Epizootica), also known as snoring diseases, "he said. RMT

Amervi Supports Efforts to Boost Cattle Population of Interior

Yogyakarta (TROBOS.COM). Still one breath with the dream of self-sufficiency in beef / buffalo, once again the government has an obsession to boost the population of cows / buffaloes nationally to boost sluggish birth rate through Upsus Siwab calf. Chairman of the Medical Association of Reproductive Veterinary Indonesia (Amervi) General Budiyanto explains Upsus Siwab (Special Effort Cow Parent Mandatory Bunting) is a government program that is predicted this year, once in 2015 and then GBIB and Gangrep (snapping Lust & Artificial Insemination and Reproductive Disorders) so program expected yields calf, but the numbers do not match the target.

This was expressed in the "National Cattle Reproduction Symposium" in Yogyakarta on Saturday (11/2). The symposium was attended by nearly 500 veterinarians from all provinces, except for Aceh and Maluku. Director General of Animal Husbandry and Animal Health Ministry of Agriculture I Ketut Diarmita when delivering his keynote speech stated, for Upsus Siwab government in 2017 set a target of 3 million head in the form of the birth of a calf or calf in a year. Siwab Upsus program budget is around Rp 1.1 trillion. "Work is not easy," he stated.



Photo: dok.heni

General agreed Upsus program Siwab expressed by Ketut as 'not easy'. The problem, Agung, reproducibility numbers of cattle / buffaloes in the country during this time recorded low, with a variety of factors. Starting from the low quality of feed at the farm people, estrus detection of the weak by farmers so that AI (artificial insemination or mating injection) is not timely, because of a technical error IB low HR officer, by a factor of disease or reproductive disorders.

"Not to mention having to face the cases of infectious diseases that cause impaired health and certainly affect reproduction rates of livestock. As the latest happening in the province, Kulon Progo regency precisely that suffered an outbreak of anthrax. Certainly the events of this sort of tapping the potential of local farm to grow, and veterinarians, especially those serving in official concerned as well as in hard work Puskesmas should dampen ripples such cases," he explained. General emphasized the role of the veterinarian is ideal in the program Upsus Siwab is central and crucial, especially the vets who served in Puskesmas (Center for Animal Health) in the regions (as UPT / Technical Implementation Unit) or a veterinarian who practice independently in remote country.

"Physicians are these animals are the frontline in providing animal health services throughout the country, including technical services reproduction. Among them related to the content, fertility, pregnancy, diseases and other reproductive disorders," said Agung. But the fact is, he continued, this time in the position and authority of veterinary services is often overlapping and chaotic in the field. Technical service officer reproduction includes veterinarians, technical assistant reproduction (ATR), inspectors pregnancy, and inseminator. And another one is not rare to see problems in the operational authority.

Know Amervi

Regarding Amervi (Indonesian Veterinary Medical Association Reproduction), Agung explained, is a professional organization of veterinarians who cultivate the technical aspects of reproduction, which have its to IVMA (Indonesian Veterinary Medical Association). Members Amervi mostly practitioners, either independently or in Puskesmas officer. "Observing the Upsus Siwab and is associated with the field conditions, the veterinarian who joined the rally Amervi unity and expressed his attitude, together with the convening of this simposium," said Agung. (See also: This Fill-IVMA Amervi Declaration Supporting Upsus Siwab) Broadly speaking Amervi attitude is to support all government efforts to increase the population of cattle and beef production capability, which also will improve the welfare of farmers in the country. Therefore Amervi Upsus Siwab support program in 2017.

"But it is also absolutely support coupled with the commitment of the government to fix technical service system of cattle reproduction," said Agung notes. The government has issued to Regulation 48/2016 on the Implementation of Upsus Siwab, which also elaborated ideal working mechanism between the units of technical service officer reproduction within their authority and professional competence. "Amervi welcomed the issuance of the regulation. Then the next thing to do is application in the field should be carried out according to the rules," he said.

On the other hand, the Court stated commitment to support this Amervi internal consequences, veterinarians who are members of Amervi ready to increase the capacity of the knowledge and capabilities in the medical technical reproduction, to make the program Upsus Siwab this time will provide the best numbers. "From time to time the vet is ready to up grade knowledge and skills, in order to offer the best for the country," said Agung. heni

www.trobos.com

Two Soes Team Up To Develop Livestock Industry

February 17, 2017-Two state-owned companies – PT Rajawali Nusantara Indonesia (RNI) and PT Berdikari – have signed an agreement to develop the livestock industry, specifically cattle and chicken breeding, as well as the animal feed industry.

PT RNI president director B Didik Prasetyo and PT Berdikari president director Eko Taufik Wibowo signed the agreement in Jakarta on Thursday.

"Our big mission is to develop the business and ensure the availability of protein resources from animals for the people. We see a great opportunity in this synergy," Didik said in a press statement, adding that the cooperation supported the government's program to boost protein consumption. Citing data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), he said the consumption of animal

protein in Indonesia amounted to just 53.91 grams per capita per year, below to the recommended minimum of 57 grams. PT Berdikari is appointed by the government to develop the country's livestock industry, while PT RNI also has experience in the industry and owns large farms.

The two companies, for example, will develop the cattle business, from the import and fattening of cattle to the breeding and selling of livestock. In the poultry business, the two companies plan to engage in activities from chicken breeding to sales of ready stocks, as well as develop chicken-feeding plants. "RNI has prepared 24 hectares of farm land in Cirebon, West Java, for the purpose," said Didiek. (bbn)

www.thejakartapost.com

Increase Beef Production, Ministry of Agriculture Will Develop Cattle Belgian Blue

NUSANTARANEWS.CO, Jakarta - In an effort to fulfillment of meat production in the country, the Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health (DG PKH) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture) through one of the Technical Implementation Unit (UPT) below, the Hall of Embryo Transfer (BET) Cipelang, will soon develop the Belgian Blue cattle.

Usage at BET Cipelang Belgian Blue as a form of technology development in the context of the introduction of new cattle in Indonesian nation. The existence of Belgian Blue is used for local cattle crossed with local cows to improve muscular. Director General of Livestock Breeding and Production PKH, Surachman Suwardi, revealed that Indonesia actually has been since 2016 the use of frozen semen Belgian Blue and implement Transfer Embryo (TE).

"Historically, the Belgian Blue cattle is a marriage between a cow or Durham Shorthorn with Belgian local cows. The discount of crossbred cow skin color 'blue', so called the Belgian Blue," as he said in a press release on Thursday (02/16/2017) in Jakarta.

Furthermore, Surachman explained, with a rigorous selection method and a long time, obtained was a cow with a super muscular appearance. In cattle, the Belgian Blue, a prominent muscular looks almost throughout his body. With perototannya remarkable, Belgian Blue is called Double Muscle Belgian Blue (DM-BB). "In Belgium, this cow was originally a cow which is mainly used as a meat producer. However, other than as beef, Belgian Blue cattle also be used for several purposes, which are also used in marriage with dairy cows. Besides being used as an effort to fulfill the production of meat, where Belgian Blue is also used for local cattle crossed with perototannya to improve," he said.

Meanwhile, Head of BET Cipelang Oloan Parlindungan, said that some studies say, muscular extreme in Belgian Blue cattle is caused by mutations in the myostatin gene, the gene responsible for muscle growth in cattle.

"A mutation that causes the occurrence of Muscular Hypertrophy (MH) on some of the nation's cattle. Some of the benefits of these mutations is muscular extraordinary that the number of carcasses also increased and the fat content in meat is low," he explains.

In Belgium, continued Oloan, as much as 95% of beef cattle is a Belgian Blue cattle are able to contribute 65% of total meat production and 75% of red meat production. The high interest in Belgian Blue cattle breeders to inspire associations in Belgium Belgian Blue to spread throughout the world in the form of frozen semen and embryos. "Frozen Semen Belgian Blue is typically used for crossbreeding with dairy cows (nearly 65%)," he said. According Oloan, there are 3 color pattern on Belgian Blue cow's, which are black (pie-black / pie-noire), all white and roan (pie-blue). In a recent development, the Belgian Blue cattle is used as a dual-purpose cattle (cows dual-purpose / producer of meat and milk) and beef cattle.

As a dual-purpose cow, the principle of selection used by the potential for easy calving and milk production (ease childbirth), milk production reached 4200-4800 Liter, but also has another type of dairy cow with the milk production 5400-6000 Liter. With original properties as cattle dual-purpose, cows Belgian Blue is a cow, which specifically is beef cattle with the nature and the advantages that can be obtained include muscular incredible, feed efficiency, meat quality is good (tenderness), early maturity, docility (benign), low fat, bone and carcass percentage is 20% more than cows in general. Surachman added, Belgian Blue cattle weight ranged between 1100-1250 kg adult, although sometimes also encountered adult cattle weighing more than 1,300 kg and reach 145-150 cm tall. Adult cows were able to weigh 850-950 kg and reach 132-134 cm tall. "We expect that the development of Belgian Blue cattle, then will be able to assist the government's efforts in improving beef production in Indonesia," he said. Reporter: Deni Muhtarudin

The Birth of "Gatot Kaca" Cow Belgian Blue in Indonesia

Thursday, 16 February 2017-Jakarta, betaEnews.com - Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health (DG PKH) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture) through the Institute for Embryo Transfer (BET) Cipelang been successfully producing Belgian Blue cattle from the TE technology development (Embryo Transfer). "We hope with the birth of Belgian cattle Bue, it will be able to assist the government's efforts in improving beef production in Indonesia through improving the genetic quality of livestock," said Director General of Livestock Breeding and Production PKH, Dr. Ir. Surachman Suwardi through a statement on Thursday (02/16/2017).

The use of frozen semen Belgian Blue and TE, he added, has done since 2016. "Today has been born 7 Belgian Blue cows in BET Cipelang, both the result of a cross between a Belgian Blue semen frozen and TE results," he said. Delivered Surachman, crossing cow - a cow that was born from the cross Belgian Blue cattle with cattle and Simmental cattle FH capable born normally and weighing between 43-55 kg, with an average birth weight of 46 kg.

While the head of BET Cipelang DVM. Oloan Parlindungan, MP said, Belgian Blue cattle is the result of the first TE in BET Cipelang sex male born on January 30, 2017, with a birth weight of 62.5 kg and a black coat color (pie-noire). Large calf size is the reason this cow was born with the help of Caesar. Secio Caesaria is the last step taken to help the birth of the calf that may be caused by the large size of the calf and the size of the pelvic bone narrow stem. Oloan expressed, Belgian Blue cattle is a descendant of the Parent Fripouille De Cras Avenas (BE 6-26472629) and stud Adajio De Bray (BE 2-55530745). Fripouille De Cras Avenas (BE 6-26472629) is a female with a BB cows reached 1,023 kg body weight, height 139cm (Withblauw, 2015).



In the first-born Belgian Blue cattle TE result of this, Suwardi Surachman immediately provide the name Gatot Kaca. "Gatot Kaca puppet as a symbol of the powerful figures mandraguna so dubbed by the" muscle wire iron bones' due to its miracle. We hope the Belgian Blue cow the "Billy Glass" will be able to produce offspring with superior genetic quality and provide a large contribution to the fulfillment of national need of meat," he added.

Oloan Parlindungan convey, Gatot Kaca is the pride and offerings BET Cipelang for Artificial Insemination Centres (BIB) National Indonesia in fulfilling quality seeds and increase the genetic quality of livestock in order to achieve self-sufficiency in meat. "In the future, Belgian Blue cattle semen will be produced by the National BIB and cement will be distributed on a limited basis in accordance with the recommendations of DG PKH Kementan" he said RMT

RI-Australia Cooperation Increase Veterinary Service

Jakarta (TROBOS.COM). The focus of this second stage of the program APEID strengthen the system of preventive, detection, and control of infectious animal diseases and emerging priorities. Australia - Indonesia Partnership for Emerging Infectious Diseases (AIP-EID) phase 2 is a continuation of AIP-EID Phase I has been implemented in the period 2010-2014 to support the establishment of the capacity to detect and respond terhadap infectious diseases.

Director General of Animal Husbandry and Animal Health (DG PKH) I Ketut Diarmita's stated goals aligned with government priorities of the Republic of Indonesia to control zoonotic diseases, as well as improving domestic livestock production to ensure food security and stabilize the market prices for livestock products. RI Cooperation with Australia was conducted in the context of the "One Health" involving cooperation across sectors and disciplines. Cooperation is an intergovernmental partnership program carried out by the Directorate General of PKH Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture) RI with the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (Dawr) Australia. The Australian Government has been and will be poured funds of AUD 6.9 million over the period 2015-2018.

Ketut outlines Australia-Indonesia partnership program APEID 2 focuses on three (3) components, namely the first preparation and emergency preparedness. Second, animal health information systems. Third strengthening leadership and management capacity to prevent the emergence of new diseases that could potentially be a threat of economic and social threats in Indonesia. "In the event of a disease outbreak in the region in Indonesia, of course, this will reduce public

confidence in the performance of the government," said I Ketut Diarmita at 14/2.

In sync with Upsus Siwab

Therefore, the Director General of PKH request to the Director of Animal Health in order to further optimize the performance iSIKHNAS (National Animal Health Information System integrated). "iSIKHNAS must be designed again to early reports or early detection can be run more effectively. For the government to move quickly to take a decision, action an animal disease control and eradication. Do not let the outbreak "urge the Director General of PKH.

PKH Director General said that the government's limited budget, the handling of animal diseases co-operation with the Australian government is indispensable. I Ketut Diarmita also said, the focus of development activities in 2017 was DG PKH Special Effort Required Cattle breeders Bunting (Upsus Siwab) that is oriented towards achieving self-sufficiency in animal protein. In addition, the development iSIKHNAS today serve as monitoring and reporting systems Upsus Siwab program.

"This event should disukseskan, and the highly anticipated success in 2018, so as not to be a threat of animal diseases that could thwart the activities that have been declared" said I Ketut Diarmita. "Data Upsus Siwab directed to iSIKHNAS, so that will be a delay in sending data for a limited server capacity. Therefore, we ask for in this second phase APEID activities to help increase server capacity ", said Director General of PKH. I Ketut Diarmita also said, the Ministry of Agriculture is restructuring the poultry, especially for local poultry in sector 4 (four) are a major source of disease outbreaks of Avian Influenza (AI).



Compartment Non AI

"DG PKH keep trying to build AI compartments of the application of biosecurity system, which was initially only 49 points, now has grown to 68 points" said I Ketut Diarmita. I asked the director of animal health for the design of these activities so that local farmers can apply for AI-free compartments built by Indonesia can be recognized by other countries. So that Indonesia can export back,"said Ketut.

Further I Ketut Diarmita convey, Indonesia is hoping to be re-exported to Japan, Timor Leste and PNG. It is certainly expected to follow the success of Indonesia, which since 2015 has been exporting chicken eggs hatching (Hatching Eggs) to Myanmar,"said Director General of PKH.

"We hope that the Australian government can be a good partner to make Indonesia into a granary of the world" added I Ketut Diarmita.

About AIPEID

First Assistant Secretary of Animal Biosecurity Dawr,

Tim Chapman expressed AIPEID stage 2 as a follow-up success AIPEID tahap1 between the governments of Indonesia and Australia, so the implementation should be strongly supported by the Indonesian government's commitment.

Chapman stressed AIPEID program is important for Australia-Indonesia bilateral relations so that both sides must maintain a commitment to strengthening the animal health system in Indonesia.

Director of Animal Health Sumping Tjatur Fajar Rasa convey, iSIKHNAS fore have a tremendous opportunity to be developed and will provide benefits for Indonesia and the world to maintain the health of the animals. In addition, capacity building through Indonesia Adaiyah veterinary Leadership (IVL) will build the young people who have the soul of leadership to improve veterinary competence in making decisions. Veterinary authority has the ultimate authority to make decisions related to animal health. ist / ntr

Price of Staples from The Ministry of Trade on Friday February 17th 2017

Jakarta

Type	Price/kg (IDR)	Price/kg (AUD)
Beef	114.090	11.4090
Chicken Meat	28.980	2.8980
Chicken Egg	20.640	2.0640

National

Type	Price/kg (IDR)	Price/kg (AUD)
Beef	115.400	11.5400
Chicken Meat	29.560	2.9560
Chicken Egg	22.300	2.2300



Australia

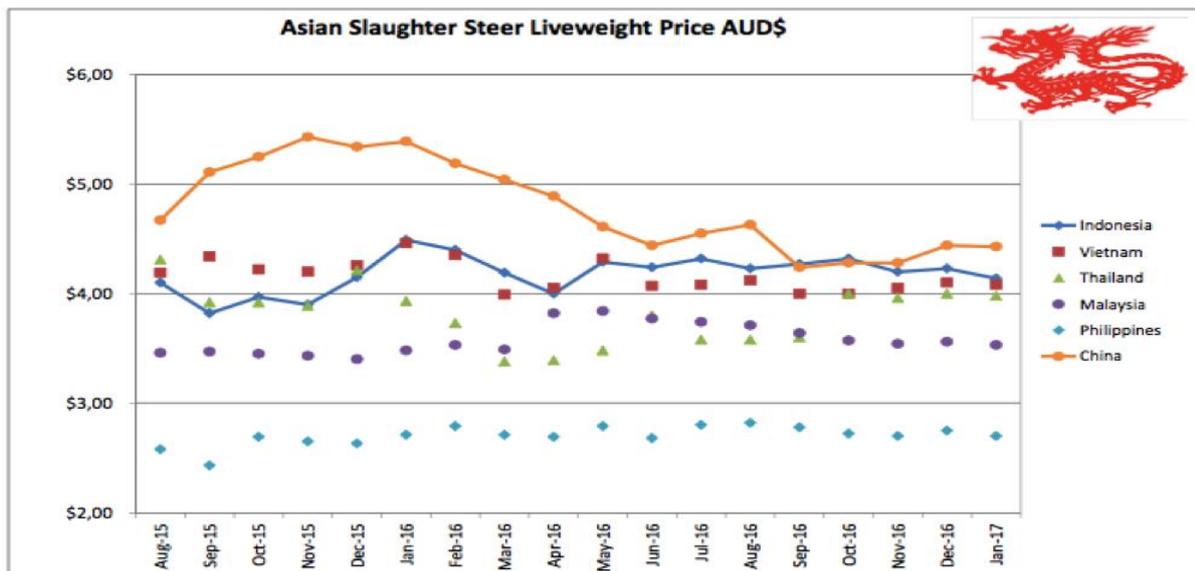
SE Asia Report: Low-priced Spanish beef adding to flood of supply into Indonesia

By Dr Ross Ainsworth, 14 February 2017

One of the most interesting observations for January is the discovery of sales of low-priced frozen beef from Spain in Java, which has been selling strongly since arriving in December 2016.

Read more:

<http://www.beefcentral.com/live-export/se-asia-report/se-asia-report-low-priced-spanish-beef-adding-to-flood-of-supply-into-indonesia/>



www.beefcentral.com

Indonesia Suspends Buffalo Meat Imports, but Unclear for How Long

By James Nason, 09 February 2017

The Indonesian Government has suspended imports of Indian buffalo meat in the wake of a significant ruling by the nation's Constitutional Court yesterday.

Read more:

<http://www.beefcentral.com/live-export/indonesia-suspends-buffalo-meat-imports-but-unclear-whether-halt-will-last/>

www.beefcentral.com



Vietnam

Beef and Dairy Livestock Asia 2017

08 Mar 2017 - GEM Exhibition Centre, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

The beef and dairy livestock sector is growing rapidly throughout Asia. There is a real opportunity in these emerging markets to impact production through sharing knowledge and modern technologies. While other Asian Livestock events cater for chicken and pork production, this Expo and Conference offers a unique opportunity to present directly to dairy and beef producers in the region.

The Expo will showcase regional, Australian and international products and services with participants from commercial operators and governments throughout Asia. A conference with presentations from leading universities, organisations and governments in the region will run alongside the event. The aim of the Event is to allow participants in the beef and dairy industry in Asia to gain a better understanding of products and services available to them. This should result in an improvement in productivity, stock health, and animal welfare and ultimately profitability.

Exhibiting companies will consist of products and services on livestock equipment, abattoir equipment, animal health products, animal feed products, feedlot software and construction, livestock traceability and information systems, breed associations, and companies that are involved in the livestock industry in general. Each company will be allocated a booth to display product and services at the Event. This provides the point of contact with current and potential clients and allows for product exposure.

There will be a presentation hall at the event for local and foreign universities and research organisations to share current information and technology. These presentations will be on request of the organising bodies.

www.cattlecouncil.com.au

To download the brochure,

<http://auschamvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Beef-and-Dairy-Livestock-Asia.pdf>



China

More Cases of Human Bird Flu in China Have Experts Worried

January 30, 2017-More cases of human bird flu in China were confirmed last week while a variety of subtypes continue to wreak havoc on the poultry industry in Europe, Africa, and Asia. The confluence of these events has the World Health Organization on high alert with worries that a pandemic may be waiting in the wings. This past Thursday, the Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported that a 67-year-old patient in Hengyang city was the latest person to contract the sometimes deadly H7N9 subtype. The man, who is in critical condition, is the 17th person in Hunan Province alone to have fallen ill with this flu this year. Five of the victims have died. Two days earlier, on Tuesday, Chinese media reported a 37-year-old woman had also been sickened and was also in critical condition. Both victims had been in contact with poultry before falling ill. No human-to-human transmission has been reported.

Since the first three cases of this type of human bird flu were reported in China in April 2013, more than 1,000 cases have been documented with a death rate of about 38.5 percent. There have also been periodic outbreaks of H5N1 or H9N2 bird flu subtypes in humans over the years, but in lower numbers than H7N9. At the same time, two highly pathogenic bird flu subtypes, H5N8 in Europe and Africa, and H5N6 in Asia, have led to the culling of millions of poultry (more than 22 million in South Korea alone). This past week a third subtype, H5N5, was found on several turkey farms in Germany. These subtypes have not been found in humans.

Michael Osterholm, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Minnesota, told Reuters on Thursday that what we are seeing is "a fundamental change in the natural history of influenza viruses." With a large number of different subtypes of the disease infecting birds, both wild and domesticated, across the globe, there is a worry that it's only a matter of time before another strain makes the jump to humans. The WHO, amidst concern of a possible pandemic in the human population, has called on all countries to closely monitor any avian flu outbreaks in birds and to report any human cases as soon as possible.

"The rapidly expanding geographical distribution of these outbreaks and the number of virus strains currently co-circulating have put WHO on high alert," WHO director-general Dr. Margaret Chan said last week at the start of the U.N. agency's 10-day executive board. Dr. Caroline Brown, program manager for flu and other respiratory pathogens for the WHO's Regional Office for Europe, said in a statement that although there haven't been any cases of human H5N8 so far, "this does not mean this cannot happen, as experience tells us."