



Strong demand for Aberdeen-Angus throughout Europe

The export boom in Aberdeen-Angus is continuing with shipments to Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy and Switzerland since the export of more than 300 head reported in the Aberdeen-Angus Review in January.

Eggs-Port of Hexham have shipped two bulls from John Lascelles, Balmachie, Carnoustie, Angus, to Switzerland, along with a substantial quantity of semen, and two bulls from Balmachie and F J Fraser and Sons, Newton of Idvies, Forfar, Angus, and 27 heifers have gone to Germany.

The heifers were consigned by breed president, Colin Davidson, Skail, Sandwick, Orkney, Playfair Farms, Tofts, Kelso, Roxburghshire, and Angus Stovold, Lydling Farm, Shackelford, Godalming, Surrey.

"There is considerable interest in Aberdeen-Angus in Germany and we expect to fulfil more orders in the course of this year," said Eggs-Port's Sheila Eggleston. "A large delegation of breeders will be attending the Perth bull sales in October and visiting herds in the North-east of Scotland. Herds are expanding and breeders are looking to upgrade the quality of their cattle."

Two further large consignments have also gone to Estonia. Father-and-son, Rynno and Meelis Marmor and Meelis' partner, Piret Laanetu, have taken a further 35 yearling heifers from Alex and Wendy Sanger's Rosemount herd at Prettycur, Montrose, Angus, to add to the 37 heifers and three bulls imported last year.



"European breeders looking to upgrade the quality of their cattle"

Meelis sees considerable potential for developing an export trade in breeding stock from Estonia to other European countries and also Russia.

"We have decided on Aberdeen-Angus because they are so easily managed and the quality of the beef is recognised throughout the world," says Meelis. "Aberdeen-Angus cattle are particularly suitable for our farm and we can keep them on grass throughout the summer without the need for supplementary feeding."

The first auction sale of beef breeding stock, mostly Aberdeen-Angus and Hereford imported from Switzerland, has taken place recently and this is likely to become a regular feature in future.

Aberdeenshire farmer, Neil Godsman, Cairnfield, Longside, has also exported a further 27 heifers to his farm in central Estonia. In addition to some heifers purchased along with the first consignment last year, this year's shipment includes

heifers from J and A Strathdee, North Retannach, Rothiemay, Huntly, and Neil Wattie, Tonley, Alford.

Fifteen in-calf heifers from Neil Dobson, The Wall, Kynnersley-on-the-Wealdmoors, Newport, Shropshire, are destined for Belgium and Ireland is also sharing in the frenzied export demand with Tommaso de Pasquale taking both bulls and heifers for his 100ha farm in the heel of Italy. He is working closely with a local butcher to develop the market in Italy for Aberdeen-Angus beef.

His purchases include the entire two year old heifer crop of 21 head from Jim Mulvey, Ballinwing House, Leitrim, Carrick on Shannon, a bull and two in-calf heifers from Leo McEnroe, Lisduff, Maghera, Virginia, Co Cavan, and a bull from John Ward, Homeville, Mullaghland, Mullagh, Co Cavan.

David Clarke Livestock also purchased three heifers at the Gigginstown House sale in Ireland on behalf of Mr Theodoros who is exporting them to his farm in Greece.

The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society will again be mounting export promotions at major shows in Poland and Romania this year following the success of similar promotions in those countries, and in Germany, last year. Breed president, Colin Davidson, also represented the Society at the SIA and SIMA international exhibitions in Paris in March.

"There is tremendous interest in Aberdeen-Angus cattle throughout Europe and it is important we keep the momentum going," said the Society's chief executive, Ron McHattie.