



## **Exporting/Importing and Zootechnical Certificates**

Following the legal requirements arising from the fallout of Brexit we can no longer simply transfer animals between UK flocks (England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland) and former members, or other Suffolk breeders, from the South of Ireland and Continental Europe.

### **Exporting**

A Zootechnical Certificate is required for livestock being exported to Suffolk breeders outside the Suffolk Sheep Society membership, and these Certificates can only be issued for Registered Sheep. It is the responsibility of the breeder/vender to ensure livestock being exported are registered with the Society and a Zootechnical Certificate has been issued. Members can now register rams for export (called ZR) and obtain a Zootechnical Certificate for £10+VAT. If a ZR registered ram is transferred to a members flock the full registration process is required including completion of pro-forma and DNA testing. The same applies for germinal products being exported. As the donor sheep will already be registered with the Society a Zootechnical Certificate can be obtained from the Society Office.

### **GB to Northern Ireland Transfers**

Although Northern Ireland flocks are part of the Suffolk Sheep Society Flock Book, a Zootechnical Certificate is required as part of the movement documentation for animals being transported from GB (England, Scotland & Wales) to Northern Ireland. These can be obtained from the Society office if required.

### **Importing**

Where animals, or germinal products, are being imported from the EU including the South of Ireland, these must be accompanied by a Zootechnical Certificate from a recognised Society to have the animal, or the progeny in the case of seminal products, entered into the Society flock book.

### **Joint Ownership**

The Society can no longer recognise joint ownership of pedigree livestock between Suffolk Sheep Society members and breeders from other Societies. The only names that can appear on pedigree certificates will be members of the Suffolk Sheep Society. If you are a joint owner of a sheep registered in another Zootechnical Flock Book (eg Suffolk Sheep Society SOI Branch) you will require the appropriate Zootechnical Certificate issued by the Society the sheep is registered with to have progeny entered into the Society Flock Book. If you are the registered owner of a jointly owned animal with someone from another Flock Book, new certificates will be issued to you over the next few weeks.

### **Society Export Sales**

Society Sales are confined to sheep which are in the case of males birth notified, or in the case of females registered with the Society, and are properly earmarked in accordance with the Society Bye-Laws. However, where a Society Sale has export status, it is now a requirement that all animals must be registered and have Zootechnical Certificates, males (and females if applicable) must be registered in advance with the Society to enable the issue of Zootechnical Certificates. It has always been a requirement to register females before selling and males must be ZR registered as explained above.

### **Private Sales (including online sales based in the UK)**

Where sheep are being promoted/advertised/listed as pedigree Suffolks in private sales, these should be registered before the sale and if it is an export sale, Zootechnical Certificates should be obtained from the Society office in advance. Where vendors are not breeders from England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland (ie from another Society) organisers should ensure that their entries are registered pedigree Suffolks with the appropriate Zootechnical Certificate from their Society. To avoid confusion in relation to pedigree administration, the Society would also strongly advise that there is a clear distinction between Suffolk Sheep Society animals and those from another Society. We will be contacting marts and auctioneers in due course to ensure they are fully aware of the requirements.

Regards,



**Robin McIlrath**  
*Chief Executive & Breed Secretary*