

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Turkey Launches the Beefmaster Embryos Transfer Project

Country: Turkey

Post: Ankara

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

On June 25, Michael Conlon, Agricultural Counselor, and Sinem Duyum, Agricultural Specialist, attended an event at Kafkas University to celebrate the donation of 67 Beefmaster embryos to Turkey by the U.S. livestock industry. The donation took place in early 2021 and will build goodwill between the United States and Turkey as these embryos will be used to develop the foundation for a Turkish Beefmaster herd and should help increase sales of U.S. livestock genetics to Turkey.

Introduction

To increase demand for U.S. livestock animal genetics, FAS/Ankara assisted Beefmaster Breeding United (BBU) and DBL D BAR Beefmaster Ranch in Texas in the donation of 67 Beefmaster embryos to Kafkas University in Kars, Turkey. The donation took place in late January, 2021. The embryos will be used to develop the foundation for a Turkish Beefmaster herd. <https://beefmasters.org/blog/2021/beefmaster-genetics-debut-in-turkey>



From left to right: Professor Yavuz Ozturkler, the project leader, Professor Husnu Kapu, the Rector of Kafkas University, and Cihan Kacar and Savas Yildiz, project team members

On June 25, Michael Conlon, Agricultural Counselor, and Sinem Duyum, Agricultural Specialist, attended an event at Kafkas University to celebrate the donation of the Beefmaster embryos to Turkey. Also in attendance were Ahmet Arslan, the former Minister of Transport Maritime Affairs and Communications, and current member of Parliament for Kars, and Yunus Kilic, a member of Parliament for Kars and the Chairman of the Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Affairs Commission of the Turkish Parliament. Doyle Sanders, the DBL D Bar Beefmaster Ranch owner, also participated in the event virtually from Texas via Microsoft Teams.



BEEFMASTER VE ZAVOT
SIĞIR IRKLARINDA
**EMBRİYO TRANSFER
LANSMAN TOPLANTISI VE
VETERİNER FAKÜLTESİ
HAYVAN HASTANESİ
TEMEL ATMA TÖRENİ**

Beefmaster and Zavot Cattle Breeds
Embryo Transfer Launch Meeting

Embriyo Transfer Alanı: KAÜ - Eğitim, Araştırma ve Uygulama Çiftliği



Tarih: **25 Haziran 2021** Saat: **14.00**

Toplantı Yeri: Ahmet ARSLAN Kültür ve Kongre Merkezi

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A flyer for the Beefmaster Event on June 25 at Kafkas University

The donation builds goodwill between the United States and Turkey. The embryos will help develop the foundation for a Turkish Beefmaster herd and should increase sales of U.S. livestock genetics to Turkey.

Turkey uses livestock genetic imports to help build the quality of their domestic herds. Turkey is one of the largest importers of animal genetics in the world. The United States has around 20 percent of the Turkish market, at around \$1.77 million. Moreover, even

though bovine semen is the most important part of U.S. livestock genetic exports, embryos are growing in importance.

The Story of the Beefmaster Breed in Turkey

The Beefmaster breed was recognized by USDA in 1954, and today BBU is the **fifth-largest breed registry in the United States**. Over the past decade, Beefmaster has become very popular among herd managers in the United States using the breed in their heterosis programs for hybrid vigor. Beefmaster cattle are a versatile, multipurpose breed, and they can be used for dairy and beef production.

In 2016, a representative from DBL D BAR Ranch in Texas contacted the FAS Ankara office to discuss how the Beefmaster breed would be very successful in Turkey by increasing the cattle population with high carcass yield, which is a major problem in the country. For several years, Turkey has been the largest importing country in the world for feeder cattle with annual imports exceeding 600,000 head from Europe and South America. Please see [here](#) for the latest GAIN report on Turkey livestock situation.



Turkish Breeders at a Beefmaster Farm in Italy

In 2017, BBU with the assistance of USLGE (U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.) organized a visit to Texas for representatives of the Turkish government and industry. USLGE, a cooperator with FAS, brings together 54 U.S. livestock organizations as well as state Departments of Agriculture, individual seedstock producers, and exporters. The Turkish officials participated in the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course, visited feedlots, packing plants, and genetic collection centers in Texas. USLGE also gave the group a lot of information on the Beefmaster breed.



Beefmaster Cattle in Italy

In 2017 and again in 2019, BBU and USLGE organized visits of Turkish breeders to a Beefmaster farm in Italy. U.S. experts on the Beefmaster breed gave presentations to the group during their visits.

Because of the campaign of FAS and the U.S. industry, in 2018 the Turkish Red Meat Producers Association Board of Directors recommended that Beefmaster should become the national beef breed of choice for Turkey. The membership and the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry accepted this recommendation for the industry's future with Beefmaster cattle.

With strong acceptance within the Turkish livestock industry, Kafkas University began a project to develop a Beefmaster foundation herd in Turkey. The Kars Province in Eastern Turkey is known as "Cattle Country" in Turkey. As the foundation herd develops at Kafkas University, their genetics will be distributed to other parts of Turkey to demonstrate adaptability to severely harsh environments and to educate ranchers on the expected benefits of this unique breed.

Attachments:

No Attachments.