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# **Report Name:** Turkey Revises Livestock Genetics Import Process and Harmonizes Certificate with the EU_Ankara_Turkey

**Country:** Turkey

**Post:** Ankara

**Report Category:** Livestock and Products, Dairy and Products

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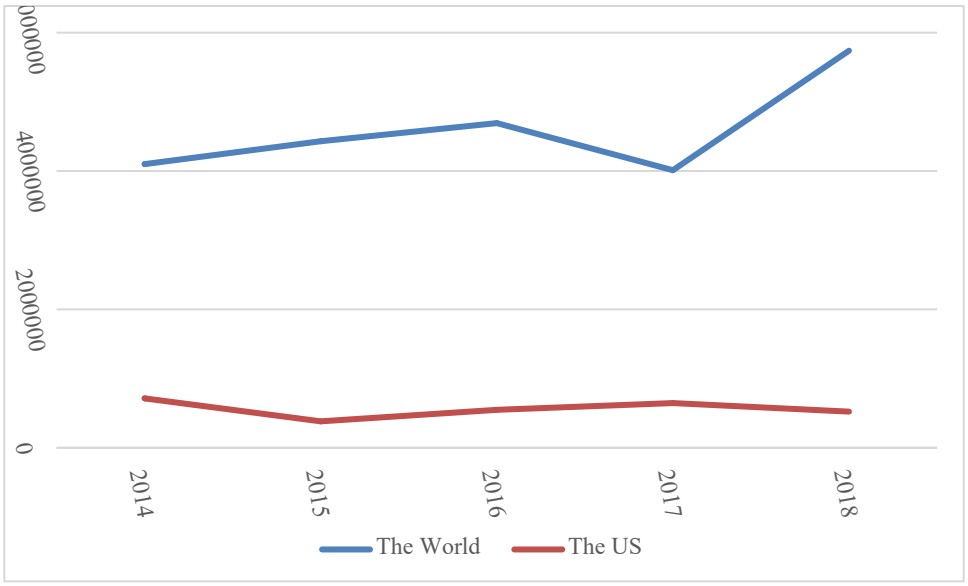
**Report Highlights:**

Turkey has removed most of the technical barriers on importation of genetic materials for animal breeding. However, U.S. semen exports have declined recently because of the strong dollar and strong competition from cheaper prices from EU suppliers. In 2019, a requirement regarding proof of the lack of a defect in the HH6 red gene has been added to a new regulation for Holstein genetics. Also, requirements for proof of the lack of a BH1 defect for Brown Swiss and JH2 defect for Jersey breeds has been removed. The mobile concentration rate has been reduced to 1 million for sorted semen and 5 million for conventional semen per straw. Turkish importers believe that beef semen demand within the domestic market will increase since the Turkish government started to give more subsidies for beef and dual purpose cattle production in order to increase beef cattle herds.

**General Information:**
With regulatory changes in 2019, Turkey has removed most of the technical barriers on the importation of genetic materials for animal breeding. Despite the streamlining of import requirements, U.S. semen exports have declined recently because of the strong dollar and strong competition from cheaper prices from EU suppliers.

**Chart 1.** Turkey Semen Imports in total versus U.S. Exports, 2014-2018




Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC, 2019

In 2017, Turkey allowed bull semen for both proven and genomic bulls in the Top 200 list for the U.S. at any time in the past ten years to qualify for export, and last year Turkey reduced the minimum milk yield average and removed the requirement for additional information (Minimum milk yield of the bull` female offspring, the precision for breeding value, and breeding value on the basis of fat and protein and feet-leg and udder index values). For more information on the prior requirements and changes, please see the FAS Turkey GAIN report dated 3/22/2018 numbered FAS8007.

The full import regulations in Turkish can be found on the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF) website. In 2019, a requirement regarding proof of the lack of a defect in the HH6 red gene has been added to a new regulation for Holstein cattle importation. Requirements for proof of the lack of a BH1 defect for Brown Swiss and JH2 defect for Jersey breeds has been removed. The mobile concentration rate is reduced to 1 million for sorted semen and 5 million for conventional semen per straw.

With the new regulation, as of January 1, 2020, an exclusive distributorship agreement should be made between the production center abroad and the Turkish importer. The agreement should include the name and the code of the center and the duration of the agreement. Any `Subcontracting agreement` is excluded from this requirement. The company name (the company who has a contract for production) should be indicated in documents (proforma invoice, veterinary health certificate etc.), which will be submitted to the Ministry to obtain the import permission.

Livestock genetics products can be imported to Turkey from countries authorized by the MinAF. Those countries must meet the technical and sanitary requirements in the veterinary health certificates.

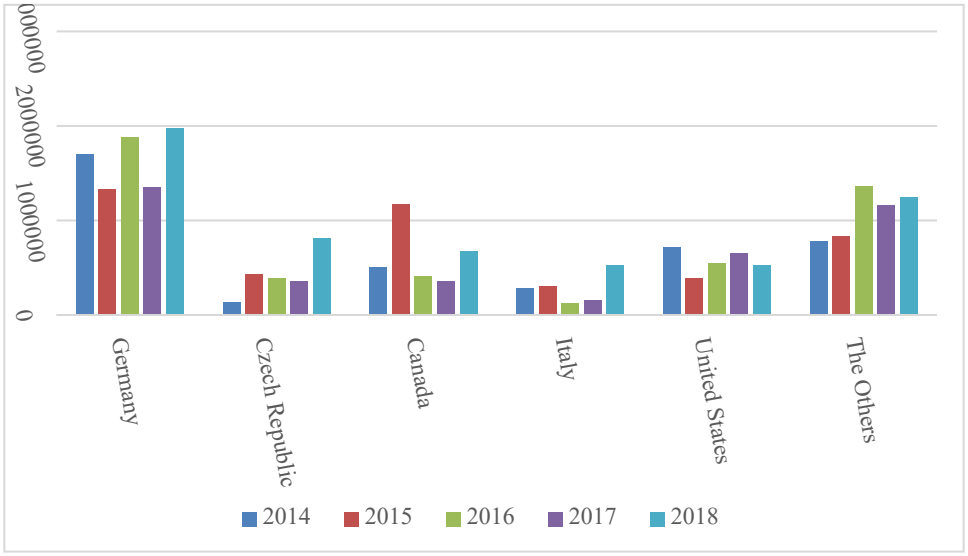
Turkey has been implementing the EU certificates for bovine semen imports and revised their semen import certificates for EU countries' shipments to Turkey according to the latest version of the EU legislation. This version allows a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test as an epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) testing alternative to AGID. The certificate named *"Veterinary Health Certificate For Semen Of Domestic Animals Of The Bovine Species For Import To Republic Of Turkey From Countries Except Member States Of European Union*" is now available for all countries semen shipments including the U.S. and can be found at:

https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/Konular/Veteriner-Hizmetleri/Ihracat-Ithalat/Ithalat or see the attachment to this report.

Exporting countries must be members of the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR). Genetics can be imported to Turkey by companies who have an 'import efficiency license' given by MinAF. Those companies are available at MinAF's web-site here.

In 2018, Turkey imported 5.7 million units of semen worth $11.2 million, which is 43 percent higher than 2017. Germany is still the top supplier of bovine genetics to Turkey with 1.9 million units of semen to Turkey worth $4.1 million in 2018. The United States exported 522,363 units of semen in 2018 worth $1.7 million, which is 20 percent lower than the previous year in quantity. The decline is seen mostly in Holstein breed exports and according to the semen importers, the reason for the decline is the strong dollar and cheaper semen sold by European countries such as Slovakia and the Czech Republic. On the other hand, Simmental semen imports have been increasing as a result of choices made by Turkish producers and government subsidies given to beef production.

**Chart 2.** Turkey Semen Import by Country, 2014-2018




Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC, 2019

The vast majority of cattle in Turkey are used for milk production. In Turkey, the milk market has a key role in determining the meat market situation. Generally, male calves from dairy cows have been used as feeder cattle, negatively affecting carcass yield for meat production. MinAF increased breeding cattle subsidies last year in order to improve the animal population and will grant more subsidies for feeder calves in order to increase meat production. In order to achieve this, artificial insemination of cows with feeder cattle semen will be financially supported and age limits will be removed, as reported by the Ministry. For more information on Turkish livestock production and subsidies, please see the FAS Turkey GAIN report dated 8/29/2019 numbered TR9023.

Turkish importers believe that beef semen demand within the domestic market will be higher since the Turkish government started to give more subsidies for beef and dual purpose cattle in order to increase beef cattle production.

A remaining challenge for semen imports is the DNA testing procedures required in Turkey. Imported semen is tested in a duplicative process to cross-check with the exporting countries whether the DNA profile that was done in countries prior to export was carried out correctly. This adds additional time, delaying the release of the semen into the market creates cost concerns among importers.

**Attachments:**

Turkey Veterinary Health Certificate for Bovine Semen.pdf