

## Progress on FAnGR National Action Plan Recommended Actions as of 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009

### Recommended Action

### Summary of Progress

1. The National Steering Committee should be constituted as a **UK standing committee**, to provide a permanent forum for advising Government and other stakeholders on issues relating to FAnGR, and to oversee implementation of, and further develop, the National Action Plan.
- This recommendation was accepted by Defra and Devolved Administration ministers and the UK National Standing Committee on Farm Animal Genetic Resources was established as a Non-Departmental Public Body in 2007. Members were appointed in late 2007 and early 2008, and the committee met for the first time in March 2008. It currently meets at approximately 3 monthly intervals.

Four sub-groups of the committee have been established with particular responsibility for pursuing Recommended Actions below:

- Identification, Monitoring & Characterisation (IMC);
- Conservation & Sustainable Use (CSU);
- Education & Communication (E&C);
- Research & Development (R&D).

The membership and remit of the committee can be seen at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/>

2. Defra and the Devolved Administrations should commission a series of **Breeding Structure Reports** for each UK livestock sector, and update these every six years.

The first of these reports is being done for the poultry sector, as the need is deemed to be greatest here, because of lack of previous studies and potential new disease risks to poultry FAnGR. The specification for the report is being finalised and will be considered by the NSC in September 2009. There have been relatively recent studies on sheep  
http: <https://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/reports/pollott2003.pdf> and pigs. Provisionally, we intend to commission surveys next on cattle then horses then sheep then goats.
3. The existing UK National Breed Database should be upgraded into a web-based **UK National Breed Inventory** using the European Farm Animal Biodiversity Information System (EFABIS), as appropriate, to ensure compatibility with and links to European and UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) databases. Clear links with the Livestock Register in Defra and equivalent databases (including the National Equine Database) in the Devolved Administrations should be established.

The EFABIS system is now installed and ADAS have been appointed to maintain this. Links have been established with European and FAO DAD-IS databases  
FAO: <http://dad.fao.org/>  
EU EFABIS: <http://efabis.tzv.fal.de/>  
UK EFABIS: <http://efabis-uk.adas.co.uk/>

The Livestock Register has not proceeded as previously envisaged, but there is on-going work within Defra and Devolved Administrations on livestock registration. The need for links with other databases will

be considered.

4. The UK National Co-ordinator with guidance from the NSC (with additional expertise as necessary) should **populate and maintain the UK National Breed Inventory**, identifying which breeds should be classified as mainstream or at risk, native, exotic or feral etc. The use of the term breed within the inventory should be consistent with definitions of inter-governmental bodies such as the EU and FAO.

Further, the NSC should:

- provide guidance for UK Government on the appropriateness of any proposed EU definition of a breed, and the implications such a definition may have for UK policy, industry activity and FAnGR management; and
- keep under review the scope of the inventory and its use of terms to ensure it is relevant to the management of FAnGR.

5. There is a need for greater, but cost-effective, **scientific characterisation** of those breeds to be incorporated into the UK National Breed Inventory - e.g. through EU initiatives and partnership with conservation programmes, but ensuring sound comparisons of resources in the same environment - with priorities on:

- disease resistance;

The IMC Sub Group is planning to work with a wide range of 'data owners' or umbrella organisations to encourage regular provision of electronic data. A workshop is being planned with stakeholders to discuss data availability and formats, and steps to encourage regular electronic updates.

There are variations in names of breeds in use, in their country of origin and in which are thought to be at risk. Hence, the IMC Sub Group is working with other stakeholders to identify synonyms, whether native or exotic, and a single agreed list of breeds at risk, including correcting some omissions in the National Country Report. We expect this to be achieved by the end of 2009.

Potential software to test existing definitions has been identified.

Defra have commissioned a review of molecular characterisation studies (see RA 6) which we expect will provide guidance on design or prioritisation of future characterisation studies (e.g. on how molecular studies might help target these). IF0180: Review of molecular characterisation studies relating to UK Farm Animal Genetic Resources. Start 03/2009 – End 09/2009. Warwick University, Laura Green.

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&>

- quality of meat and/or other products;
- behavioural or physiological differences leading to increased 'fitness' for specific environments or management regimes e.g. conservation grazing.

More research is needed on effective targeting of breed characterisation studies.

[Location=None&ProjectID=16592&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=IF0180&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=16592&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=IF0180&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description)

Defra have also commissioned a review of breed and within-breed genetic differences in nutrient utilisation. IF0183: Review of nutrient efficiency in different breeds of farm livestock. Start 03/2009 – End 11/2009. SAC, Bert Tolcamp.

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=16595&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=IF0183&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

When these studies are complete, we will consider whether further specific action is needed, or whether we should simply continue to encourage scientists and funders to build appropriate characterisation measures into their project proposals/calls.

See also related Defra and Scottish Government/QMS (co)funded research on:

AC0204: A study of the scope for the application of research in animal genomics and breeding to reduce nitrogen and methane emissions from livestock based food chains. Start 06/2007 – End 01/2008.

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=14662&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=AC0204&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

Development of a National Genotyping Service to Deliver Key Benefits for the Scottish Sheep Sector  
<http://www.sac.ac.uk/news/newsarchives/08n71genetic>

6. A short **review of molecular characterisation studies** on UK livestock should be commissioned, including their adequacy in relation to Molecular Domestic Animal Diversity (MoDAD) procedures and advising on priorities for any future studies. Studies should be commissioned to address the priorities identified.

Defra have commissioned this review (see Recommended Action 5).
7. The NSC should oversee the development of a suitable **Standardised Template** to monitor breeds for incorporation into the National Breed Inventory and ensure that information is collected to help assess the risk posed to our national FAnGR.

The EFABIS template for each species is now available and this is being adapted for use as National Breed Inventory template by the IMC subgroup.
8. The NSC should ensure that the **GRFA Information Portal** being developed by Defra fulfils the needs of FAnGR stakeholders by:

  - linking the web-based UK National Breed Inventory (in Recommendation 3) to the web portal;

GRFA portal in place but needs further development.

FAnGR database is being discussed within the IMC subgroup. ADAS have sent a quote with various options, which the IMC will consider. The IMC have identified ways of providing more routine monitoring procedures for FAnGR stakeholders which will also provide more quality control. The IMC are investigating the cost effectiveness.

- ensuring the uploading and updating procedures can facilitate monitoring of FAnGR;
- obtaining accurate and objective information on breeds, activities and issues in relation to FAnGR as described in the Standardised Template in Recommended Action 7.

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| 9.  | The NSC should review and <b>update ‘monitoring data’</b> in the UK National Breed Inventory in a 3 yearly cycle with sequential reviews of: (i) sheep and goats; (ii) cattle, pigs, and horses; and (iii) poultry.  | This action is on hold, pending population of the National Breed Inventory (see Recommended Action 4). |
| 10. | The <b>procedure for obtaining information</b> from breed societies and breeding companies and the content of the information should be reviewed by the NSC, in the light of the needs of the Standardised Template recommended above (Recommended Action 7) and the opportunities offered by the GRFA Information Portal. | See report of progress at Recommended Action 4.  |
| 11. | <b>Breed societies should be encouraged to make all herd books electronic</b> to facilitate the uploading of monitoring information, as defined in the Standardised Template, to the National Breed Inventory via the GRFA Information Portal.   | See report of progress at Recommended Action 4 and 8.  |
| 12. | <b>Procedures for quantifying resources not included</b>   | To be discussed further in September in the context of the Poultry                                     |

**within herd books** should be formalised by the NSC.

Structure Report - see Recommended Action 2. This is also relevant to Recommended Actions 4, 7 and 8.

13. A project – to be steered by NSC - should be commissioned, to build on and define:

Defra recently called for research proposals on definition of a breeding nucleus. This project specification is under review.

- **robust qualifications for a breeding nucleus** essential to the survival of a breed, with or without cryopreserved genetic material as a backup, and particularly when the breed is geographically concentrated;
- how best to quantify **degree of concentration** and thresholds for preservation action;
- the **feasibility and practicality** of the necessary data collection, namely the population size and location of holdings; and
- **breeds at risk** as a result of geographical concentration, using the preferred measures defined above.

Defra commissioned work on geographical concentration with The Sheep Trust and partners, and this is now complete. The report highlights the geographical concentration of some sheep breeds. This will be taken into account when updating the list of breeds at risk (see Recommended Action 4), and by the new research on definition of a breeding nucleus. The report is attached.



REPORT.doc

14. Industry and Government stakeholders should work together: (i) to **improve the recording of livestock breed data** before finalising the requirements of the Livestock Register, and (ii) to speed the development of routine linking (through common formats for animals

The original plans for a Livestock Register (a single database holding all livestock information) have been dropped.

The Livestock Partnership (owned by Animal Health and GB wide) is now looking at how to improve data on animal locations through the

and holdings) of key databases containing information important for the sustainable management of the UK's FAnGR.

County Parish Holding Programme (Manda Vince) and also how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of livestock movement reporting (David Mason). There will not be a central database which would hold e.g. livestock breed information, but data provided by cattle keepers is available through the Cattle Tracing System (CTS).

15. The prioritisation of **native breeds** for conservation should continue as at present, but **exotic breeds** in the UK which are extinct in their country of origin and severely endangered globally, or which make an important economic contribution to UK agriculture, may also need conservation action. More work is needed to identify exotic FAnGR that fall into these categories.

This Recommended Action is concerned with priority being accorded to native breeds – Recommended Action 17 deals with prioritisation among them.

CSU/IMC Sub Groups will bring forward a paper for discussion at the December NSC meeting on exotic breeds that make a major economic contribution using currently available data (e.g. based on recent Defra sheep breed survey, CTS statistics and Poultry Structure Report) and what action NSC should be taking in relation to these.

Discussions are underway with the Irish National Co-ordinator for FAnGR to agree protocols for supporting conservation of breeds of dual British/Irish origin (Irish Draught horse, Connemara pony, Galway sheep, Dexter cattle, Kerry cattle). CSU & IMC committees are in the process of determining the exact relationship between breeds and conservation requirements in the UK and Ireland. A joint report to the September meeting of NSC will allow a final decision to be made at that meeting.

NSC will review/confirm native vs exotic breed classification in the UK Country Report listing following completion of Recommended Action 4.

16. Defra and the Devolved Administrations should commission a **cost-benefit analysis of FAnGR** to the rural economy. The study should be steered by NSC, link to that in Recommended Action 19, and include the roles of FAnGR of all farmed species in agribusiness, leisure and tourism. The results should be used as a guide to prioritisation for conservation action.
- The R&D Sub Group will produce a draft specification for this work for the September meeting, for discussion with funders.
17. The NSC should establish and keep under review the thresholds and **priority levels for conservation action** of breeds using scientifically robust criteria, further developing these as necessary. Thresholds for geographical concentration, local adaptation and breed distinctiveness, including a measure of genetic introgression, need to be more clearly defined.
- Individual NSC members are seeking funding for workshops that they would run in conjunction with the NSC on this theme.
- BBSRC is sponsoring a workshop on 3<sup>rd</sup> of September organised by Genesis Faraday on relatively basic biological questions related to biodiversity in livestock. The programme will contain sessions on conservation.
- The September NSC meeting will review whether a more targeted workshop on prioritisation for conservation is necessary.
18. We recommend that the NSC should **advise on strategies for genetic conservation actions** as part of risk management in **mainstream breeds**, and **highlight corrective actions** that may be needed in mainstream breeds or strains where selection strategies appear to be producing unfavourable consequences for health, welfare or 'fitness' of animals.
- The CSU Sub Group will produce a draft set of recommendations on risk management in mainstream breeds for review at the September NSC meeting. A full meeting of CSU committee is to take place in August to consider the detail of this issue. Once agreed, these will be posted on the NSC website, and mainstream breed societies will be alerted via the NSC newsletter.
- More progress will be made with the Recommended Actions once research on definition of a breeding nucleus is complete, and the

National Breed Inventory is populated.

We will also continue discussions with the Farm Animal Welfare Council on issues of mutual interest (see Recommended Action 35).

Defra published initial biodiversity indicators for farmed livestock in May 2009. These may be useful at the individual breed level to monitor changes.

[http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/Biyp\\_2009.pdf](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/Biyp_2009.pdf)

Genesis Faraday Partnership recently launched an Industry Club on inherited diseases in farm livestock. This will produce guidelines on dealing with single gene disorders. The RIDGENE project will be led by The Roslin Institute R(D)SVS, University of Edinburgh. The 18-month project begins in 2009 and is funded by EBLEX, QMS and Genesis Faraday.

A four-year €8m EU Framework 7 Project called Quantomics started in June 2009. The project, coordinated by Genesis Faraday Partnership, includes a workpackage on the use of dense DNA marker information in the management of diversity in mainstream populations under selection.

19. A project – to be steered by the NSC - should be commissioned to develop a **co-ordinated in situ and ex situ National FAnGR Conservation Strategy** for breeds at risk, and mainstream breeds that qualify for priority action, taking into account the conservation work already being carried out by NGOs and breed societies. The project should include an evaluation of
- A project specification will be drawn up by the CSU/R&D subgroups for consideration at the September NSC meeting to identify the need for a single co-ordinated strategy, identify who might undertake this work and who might fund it.
- A short paper on *in vitro* cryopreservation options was provided for consideration by the NSC at the June 2009 meeting. The paper is

the costs and benefits of alternative approaches, and link with Recommended Action 16.

now available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/pdf/briefing-090703.pdf>

The European Commission has selected for funding a small collaborative project (€3m grant) called NextGen coordinated by CNRS (University Joseph Fourier), Grenoble. The project will include activity on the development of tools for the characterisation, conservation and management of biodiversity in farm animal species. As at July 2009 the project is still under negotiation and very little information is currently available about the content of the project and project partners.

20. Defra and the Devolved Administrations should identify opportunities within existing and developing national and EU legislation, such as European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), to **encourage the use of FAnGR** that are fit for purpose in delivering complementary policy objectives. “Stand alone” genetic resource measures to support owners of at-risk FAnGR who do not qualify for any other complementary scheme should also be considered (See Recommended Action 29).

A list of current Rural Development or other funded schemes in each part of the UK where FAnGR are supported, will be discussed at the September NSC meeting. The information will be highlighted via the NSC website, and opportunities for wider support of FAnGR will be identified.

21. The NSC, with other partners and external communications expertise, should develop a **Communication Plan** to:

A draft Communication Plan is being developed for consideration at NSC September meeting.

- create wide awareness of the information resources

available on FAnGR; and

- develop future FAnGR information provision in a way that is most helpful to decision-makers.

22. The NSC should identify and **publicise ‘success stories’** where commercial activities (e.g. speciality food marketing) or environmental management programmes have been developed around the use of non-mainstream FAnGR.
- Suitable success stories are being identified for the FAnGR website.
- Contact has been made with colleagues in Sweden to compare best practice and lessons learned from their use and management of FAnGR.

23. The NSC should seek resources to develop and repackage material on the GRFA Information Portal to facilitate its **use in schools, colleges and universities**, as part of taught courses, or via distance learning. The material should be updated regularly. The availability of this material should then be publicised widely.
- A discussion paper has been drafted covering course content for schools, Universities and HEI. Resources such as charitable trusts, scholarships and regional schemes reviewed. Possible future partnerships and funding sources are being examined
24. The NSC should work with industry stakeholders to identify a programme of relevant **training courses relating to FAnGR**, to identify possible funding opportunities to develop such courses, and to identify appropriate groups to deliver them.
- This action is closely aligned to Recommended Action 23 above. A short paper looking at Grazing Animals Project <http://www.grazinganimalsproject.org.uk/> and LANTRA as possible 'models' for FAnGR training courses at initial stage Paper needs to be finalised and put to NSC members.
- Genesis Faraday provides a half-day course on Genomics for Beginners and SAC and the University of Edinburgh offer an MSc course module on "Principles of Genetic Improvement" as a distance learning CD, the development of which was funded by BBSRC and Genesis Faraday See [www.pgi-portal.com](http://www.pgi-portal.com) for more details.
- The EU Globaldiv project (<http://www.globaldiv.eu/Index.htm>) provides a range of relevant information and links. A summer school is planned for September 2009.
- An online 'information pack' and presentation for interested parties will be available in the future.
25. The NSC should help to **identify research and**
- Several of the R&D needs identified in the National Action Plan are

**development needs** and priorities to support the protection and sustainable use of FAnGR, help to identify relevant funding routes, and to disseminate R&D results.

being met by commissioned work mentioned above.

An updated list of R&D priorities is currently being developed and will be on the website by the end of September 2009; it will be revised as necessary.

We have also provided a list of potential funding sources on the website and plans are being developed to make the website a focus for dissemination of relevant R+D results.

Preliminary work has been carried out to progress the development of a schools area on the website. Initially focussing on Scotland where the new curriculum for excellence has a specific area covering biodiversity and inheritance. Also the associated activities through GLOW SCOTLAND.

(See attached file for curriculum for excellence)

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/glowscotland/about/cfe.asp>

26. The **National Action Plan should act as the linking framework** on which to identify and collate resource sharing from a wide range of stakeholders, some of whom may have conflicting priorities.

Work is in progress to establish the NSC Website as a first port of call for all interested in FAnGR, and to create links to other bodies with an interest in FAnGR such as RBST, Sheep Trust, Cobthorn Trust, species umbrella bodies, the Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction European Technology Platform, Genesis Faraday, FAWC, levy bodies and others.

27. The NSC should engage policy makers implementing **post CAP Reform livestock strategy**, at central and regional level, on the importance of **mainstreaming**

The Secretariat will report to the September NSC meeting on the impact of Article 68 measures in CAP Healthcheck proposals and opportunities these give for FAnGR support

**FAnGR policy into all sustainable food and farming strategies.** Sustainable use of FAnGR is the starting point for all sustainable livestock production chains. The NSC should monitor the impact of CAP reform on FAnGR and alert the relevant policy makers to any corrective action needed.

A series of informal meetings has begun to update policymakers in Defra & Devolved Administrations on progress with recommended Actions, and other NSC issues. The first of these meetings was held with Welsh stakeholders in Cardiff in June 2009.

28. The NSC should continue to **monitor the impact of the National Scrapie Plan (NSP) and the Northern Ireland Scrapie Plan (NISIP) on genetic diversity in sheep breeds.** The findings of research on the impact of the NSP should be fed into policy development of the NSP and future breeding scheme design.

Defra-funded research has shown that breeding for scrapie resistance is unlikely to have had adverse effects on the 'genetic health' of mainstream or rare breeds of sheep. <http://collections.europarchive.org/tna/20080915101357/http://defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/othertses/scrapie/nsp/pdf/nspupdate10.pdf>

As a result of advice in 2006 from Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) that the prevalence of BSE in the UK sheep population was likely, to be either zero or very low if present at all, the NSP Ram Genotyping Scheme ended in March 2009.

The National Sheep Association and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust took ownership of the NSP Semen Archive in December 2008.

29. The UK National Co-ordinator for FAnGR should: See RAs 17 and 20.
- **Monitor closely the progress of the new EAFRD proposals**, intervening where necessary in the negotiations and liaising with policymakers on the inclusion of 'stand alone' genetic resource measures (other than headage payments) into national rural development plans in support of flexible actions to conserve and utilise FAnGR.
  - Liaise with policy makers to ensure that **payments supporting endangered native breeds** provided for under agri-environmental measures in the new EAFRD regulation are incorporated into new rural development plans.
- Amendments to European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) etc will be discussed at the September 2009 NSC Meeting.
30. The UK National Co-ordinator for FAnGR should **monitor legal action taken under Countryside Rights of Way (CROW)** in England and Wales and any negative impact on the willingness of livestock keepers to conserve FAnGR on their land. Secretariat in contact with Defra colleagues responsible for policy on public access.
- Julian Hosking monitoring progress on amendments to the Animals Act to clarify liabilities on those keeping animals, especially grazing animals.
31. The UK National Co-ordinator for FAnGR should commission publicly co-funded R&D to model/characterise breeds for their lifecycle nutrient efficiency and to investigate **the incorporation of lifecycle nutrient efficiency traits into breeding programmes** in all livestock species. Defra recently commissioned three pieces of work relevant to this RA:
- a review of breed and within-breed genetic differences in nutrient utilisation see details of this research IF0183 under RA5.

- a project examining the scope for incorporating environmental objectives in ruminant livestock breeding goals

IF0182: Would livestock breeding goals change if carbon and nitrogen efficiency, rather than economic efficiency, were the priority objectives? Start 03/2009 – End 11/2009. Is with SAC, Eileen Wall <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=16594&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=IF0182&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

- a project examining the potential role of genomic selection in beef and sheep breeding, and the need for a ruminant Genetic Improvement Network to help achieve environmentally sustainable breeding of ruminants.

IF0149: Determining strategies for delivering environmentally sustainable production in the UK ruminant industry through genetic improvement. Start 03/2009 – End 02/2010. <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=15846&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=IF0149&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

32. In respect of the **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Directive**, the NSC should advise Government on a scientifically and legally **robust definition of a nucleus unit** essential to the survival of the breed, with or without cryopreserved genetic material as a backup, particularly where that breed is not numerically rare but is geographically concentrated. See Recommended Action 13.

33. When the new EU **Avian Influenza Directive** is The IMC Sub Group have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding

implemented in the UK, the special provisions to protect rare poultry breeds should be transposed into UK legislation. This will require an improved data set on UK poultry breeding holdings. The NSC, in consultation with relevant species associations, should have a key role in advising policymakers on applying these special measures and be involved in the subsequent implementation process.

to guide animal health professionals on protecting FAnGR in the event of a notifiable disease outbreak.

The NSC Secretariat have had fruitful initial discussions with Defra's Emergency Response Team on the best way to protect FAnGR and the value of extending the Breeds At Risk Register (a list of breeds at risk drawn up to help protect FAnGR during the FMD outbreak in 2000/01) to all notifiable diseases of all livestock species. These discussions will continue and be broadened to include Devolved Administrations.

A full structure report on the poultry sector has been commissioned to allow a more full consideration of the issues relating to the protection of the poultry genetic stocks.

34. The UK National Co-ordinator should monitor and contribute to the development of **livestock disease control policies that may impact on FAnGR** and be involved in any changes to parent legislation where appropriate.

See Recommended Action 33 and planned regular discussions with Defra officials on issues of mutual interest, including new legislation affecting FAnGR.

Preliminary discussions have been held with key stakeholders to consider issues associated with vector borne diseases in equines.

35. In response to the **2004 Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) Report on the Welfare Implications of Animal Breeding and Breeding Technologies in Commercial Agriculture**, Defra should trigger regular, formal exchanges of views between the NSC and FAWC on livestock breeding technologies and programmes and their impact on animal welfare.

The FAWC and NSC chairs and members of the Secretariats of the two committees held a conference call in September 2008. It was agreed that the two committees should:

- Exchange minutes after each meeting.
- Provide input to consultations of mutual interest run by either of the committees.
- Have further conference calls as needed.

A FAWC member, Dr Joanne Conington, gave a presentation on FAWC priorities relevant to NSC at the March 2009 meeting.

36. The NSC, through the UK National Co-ordinator for FAnGR, should carefully **monitor developments in zootechnical legislation**, encourage deeper integration between zootechnics and FAnGR policy owners and develop better communication with other stakeholders such as breed societies.
- The NSC considered a paper on zootechnical legislation affecting cattle, sheep, goats and pigs at its meeting in June 09. A paper covering equine zootechnics will be covered at the NSC's September 09 meeting.
- A review of the various breed lists under the various EU zootechnic provisions will be undertaken with a view to the harmonisation of the list to ensure better implementation across the species.
37. NGOs and research providers should be encouraged to participate in **trans-national FAnGR projects** under the new **European Genetic Resources Regulation 870/2004**. Defra and the Devolved Administrations should, wherever possible, make match funding available for suitable projects.
- Secretariat to report to September meeting on progress of GENRES funded Heritage Sheep and EFABIS projects in which the UK have an interest
- [http://heritagesheep.eu/EAAP%20Vilnius%20brochure\\_0808%20ver%203.pdf](http://heritagesheep.eu/EAAP%20Vilnius%20brochure_0808%20ver%203.pdf)
38. The UK National Co-ordinator for FAnGR, should continue to play an **active part at global and European regional level**, through existing FAO structures such as the European Regional Focal Point for FAnGR (ERFP), in the development of a sustainable policy on farm animal genetic diversity.
- Ongoing activity for Secretariat.