



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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£10m Chinese equine export deal agreed

- An export agreement for thoroughbreds and sport horses worth up to £10million to the UK economy was agreed today at a meeting between Environment Secretary Owen Paterson and Chinese Minister for Import Controls Zhi Shuping at Newmarket.
- The Horse Protocol will allow for the export of equine exports – mostly thoroughbreds and sport horses – to China shortly.
- There is a growing Chinese interest in horses, and the government is keen to tap into British horse expertise, which is world-renowned.
- Owen Paterson invited Minister Zhi to the UK following his visit to China last year with the Prime Minister, where he secured a £45m export deal for the UK.

Minister Zhi said:

“Riding, breeding and training horses is increasingly popular in China, so this deal will ensure that we can make the most of the UK’s world-famous thoroughbreds in boosting our burgeoning equine industry.”

Environment Minister Owen Paterson said:

“This deal will boost the UK economy by up to £10m, and once again demonstrates the value of our global reputation for high-quality exports. Through working in partnership with industry on export deals, we can secure great results for the British economy.”

British Horseracing Authority Chief Executive Paul Bittar said:

“The new export protocol between Britain and China marks a positive step for the British Horseracing and breeding industries, and also the wider equine sector. Britain has a great deal to offer in terms of the quality of both our horses and expertise, and we all look forward to developing this partnership further in the years ahead.”

Carter Carnegie, International Executive at Great British Racing International, stated:

“We were delighted to welcome Minister Zhi Shuping to Newmarket along with Rt Hon Owen Paterson, the Minister for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. The export of horses will become a major benefit to the British Racing industry as China’s interest in racing continues to grow, and so it is fitting that both ministers could experience Newmarket, the birthplace of modern Thoroughbred racing, which showcases the very best the sport has to offer.”

Claire Williams, Executive Director, British Equestrian Trade Association:

“This protocol is a crucial step forward in opening a new and growing market in China for British exporters of horses. It will also give a real boost to those companies developing markets in China for other related equestrian products.”

Louise Kemble, CEO, The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association said:

“The export market for Thoroughbreds from Britain is currently valued at £118 million annually. Whilst the opportunity for Thoroughbred trade with China is in its infancy, looking to the future the prospect of expanding this business meant that securing the export protocol was essential first step for our members, whilst also endorsing the findings of our Economic Impact Study. We will now work with DEFRA, CBBC and trade partners to ensure that Britain is recognised as leading source of equine expertise, ensuring that we maximise business opportunities across the sector.”

Professor Tim Morris, the non-executive member responsible for the equine sector on the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England said:

“This country leads the world with its range of top quality horse and ponies. We have a unique combination of the best thoroughbred and sport horses, and a wide diversity of unique breeds from Shetland ponies to Shire horses, and the equine sector welcomes this access to the developing Chinese market.”

Claire Urry, Executive Director, China-Britain Business Council:

“China is the fastest growing market in the world. In the agriculture, food and drink sectors, where there are growing opportunities for UK business, bi-lateral agreements are often required to facilitate the opening of new export markets. Close collaboration between Defra and UK industry is essential to conclude these negotiations with Chinese partners. Not only does China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) and our member companies work in partnership with Defra to ensure that the signing of such protocols is possible, but we support businesses to capitalise on these new export opportunities via our network of advisers based in 23 locations across the UK and China.”

- Agreed with industry, this deal offers the best possible terms for the £3.8bn UK equine industry. The protocol will cover all equine breeds, enabling industry to meet strong demand. Following signing of the protocol an Export Health Certificate will need to be agreed before exports can commence, which may take several months.