

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Romania

**Post:** Bucharest

### Dairy Genetics and Nutrition Roadshow in Romania

**Report Categories:**

Dairy and Products

SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities

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**Report Highlights:**

In April 2018, FAS Bucharest organized a workshop focused on the latest developments in the U.S. dairy sector, from genetics to nutrition to herd management. This report provides a description of the program carried out in Romania, April 23-24, 2018.

**General Information:**

**Event name:** Animal Genetics and Nutrition Roadshow

**Beginning/Ending Dates:** April 23-24, 2018

**City/Country:** Bucharest/Romania

**Purpose and Description of Activity:**

Romania ranks among the EU's lowest in terms of average milk yields, as backyard dairying continues to dominate. Most cows are raised by smallholders, with about half of the national herd held by farmers with only 1-2 dairy cows (per 2016 Agricultural Survey). Nevertheless, the informal segment is shrinking and the commercial segment is rapidly developing, meaning high-quality inputs, including genetics and nutrition, and improved farm management techniques are increasingly important.

As farmers look to improve efficiency and yield, they are increasingly using high-quality genetics. In 2017 total dairy-genetic imports (frozen bovine semen) increased by 57 percent in volume terms and 21 percent in value terms over 2016. The United States was the second-largest supplier of bovine genetics to Romania in 2017. U.S. exports of frozen bovine semen increased by 37 percent in value and 34 percent in volume over 2016. Generous 2016 domestic supports, as well as EU-level programs, help to drive demand for high-quality genetics from the United States. However, competition from third-country exporters also increased. Post saw an opportunity to reinforce to Romanian farmers that high-quality U.S. genetics are available, are affordable, and are well represented on the Romanian market by U.S. suppliers.

The activity provided a platform for discussion among major players about the most recent changes in the sector, its challenges and opportunities as well as to seek valuable input for crafting future strategies. Moreover, the activity was designed to facilitate the linkages between the U.S. genetics importers and local dairy farmers (potential customers) ultimately leading to higher exports to Romania.

On April 23, 2018, FAS Bucharest organized a half-day seminar in partnership with the Romanian Holstein Association. The activity was supported by the National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB), U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc. (USLGE) and the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC). Speakers from the three organizations addressed the 70 participants about the latest developments in the U.S. dairy sector, from genetics to nutrition to herd management. NAAB President Jay Weiker spoke about dairy breeding, emphasizing that new technologies and genomic selection have significantly changed the breeding landscape. Professor Scott Jensen, representing USLGE, and Dr. Iani Chihaiia, USSEC's regional representative, discussed about the importance of high-quality feed ingredients, stressing that proper nutrition is key for animals reach their genetic production potential.

Attendees included medium and large-sized farmers, breeders associations, genetics suppliers, representatives of bovine research institutes, feed ingredient suppliers, and government officials. Topics were well received by the participants and a vibrant Q&A session followed the presentations.



*Regional Agricultural Attaché Jonn Slette opening the Dairy – Breeding, Nutrition and Farm Management Workshop in Bucharest, April 23, 2018*



*Dr. Jay Weiker/ NAAB*

*Jonn Slette, Agricultural Attaché*



*Scott Jensen/University of Idaho*

*Dr. Iani Chihaiia/USSEC*

The second day featured a site visit for nearly 35 participants to a large dairy farm near Bucharest. The 2,600-head operation uses significant quantities of U.S. genetics. At the farm, U.S. guests shared their advice with the group on breeding, reproduction, and feeding.



*Dairy farm visit*



*From left to right: Prof. Scott Jensen, Regional Attaché Jonn Slette, Dr. Jay Weiker, and farmer Nicusor Serban*



*Participants share opinions during the dairy farm visit.*

## **Expected Results and Desired Outcomes**

In terms of sales, the United States ranks second in Romanian imports of bovine genetics. U.S. genetics maintain market share of 21 percent in value terms, but only six percent in number of doses. As an outcome of the activity and new linkages, Post expects that genetics sales will expand by \$30,000 in the next 12 months. As the size of dairy farms increase and smaller farms consolidate, the demand for



frozen semen will surge. Post expects that U.S. genetic exports are likely to grow by 50 percent over a period of 2-3 years.

In the same time, as farmers became more knowledgeable about the genomic technology benefits, the number of farmers embracing genomics is expected to rise. According to the Holstein RO Association, the number of genomic tests amounted to 700 tests by June 2018 from just three in 2013.

Regarding dairy nutrition, FAS Bucharest expects that Romanian farmers will improve feeding practices correlating cow needs during different production phases with the type of feeding and the farm goals. As farmers get more sophisticated, we expect that new feed ingredients, such as soybean hulls or distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS), will be more incorporated.

Media, both on-line and printed, was very well represented at this event. Article captures and links to the media articles published about the event are included in Appendix 1.

Considering the fear competition among genetics suppliers on the Romanian market, Post believes that such outreach activities increase farmers' interest in high-quality U.S. genetics and make them aware of the role investments in genetic resources play in improving a herd. The activity conducted in Bucharest attracted mostly the dairy farms located in the south and southeastern regions. Although these areas have the highest concentration of Holstein dairy farms in terms of both number of farms and farm-size, future outreach programs should include small to medium-average farms located in other parts of the country.

**Appendix 1** - List of selected web links and print magazines featuring the activity

<http://agrintel.ro/96537/cum-arata-vaca-perfecta-la-americiani-de-la-holstein-se-va-intra-in-era-jersey/>

[http://www.diacaf.com/stiri/economic/in-vizita-la-agroserv-mariuta-fermierul-nicusor-serban-gazda\\_72527932.html](http://www.diacaf.com/stiri/economic/in-vizita-la-agroserv-mariuta-fermierul-nicusor-serban-gazda_72527932.html)

<https://www.agroinfo.ro/economic/lectia-americana-despre-cresterea-vacilor>

CREȘTEREA ANIMALELOR



Viitorul fermei de lapte se citește în genomică

Cei mai progresivi fermieri din SUA au început să folosească tehnici de selecție bazate pe teste genetice pentru a îmbunătăți calitatea și cantitatea laptelui produs de vacile lor.

Un grup de cercetători americani a dezvoltat un test genetic care poate fi utilizat pentru a identifica vacile care produc cel mai mult lapte și care au cel mai bun raport calitate-cantitate.

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CREȘTEREA ANIMALELOR

Tendințe și detalii în nutriția vacii de lapte din SUA

Măștrășii tendințelor de nutriție în creșterea animalelor și creșterea acestor animale de lactație au început să se concentreze pe nutriția vacii de lapte din SUA.

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NOTIURI

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