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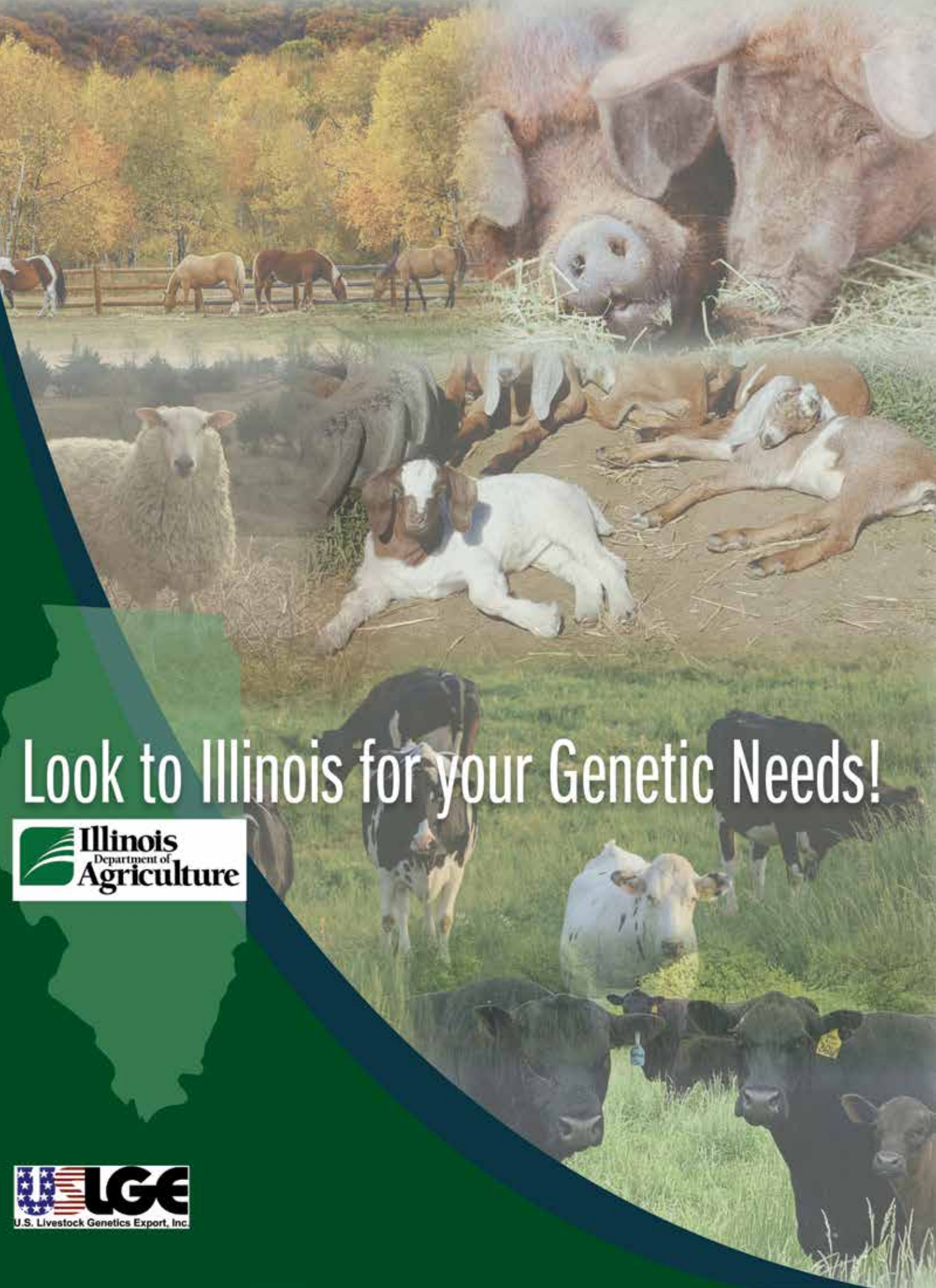
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# *A letter from the Director:*



Illinois agriculture has been and will always be a big part of my life. As a young boy I spent weekends on my grandfather's farm where he raised cattle, hogs, soybeans, corn and apples. He taught me how to tend to animals and care for the land. These experiences initiated my love for agriculture, leading me to raise a small herd of cattle today. In March 2020, I was honored to be asked to serve as the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture is Illinois' number one industry. Illinois' climate and varied soil types enable farmers to grow and raise many agriculture commodities, leading to U.S. rankings as the number one producer of soybeans and number two producer of corn. We take pride in being the number four producer of hogs in the nation and are a constant nationwide leader in feed ingredients. Our state's vast landscape also lends itself to raising dairy cattle, beef cattle, horses, sheep and goats.

With nearly 67 million hectares of farmland and over 1,700 food manufacturing companies located in Illinois, we are well-equipped to turn the state's crops and livestock into food and industrial products. In fact, Illinois leads the nation in processed food sales and has one of the largest concentrations of food related businesses in the world.

I am proud to call Illinois home. Our dedicated farmers are what make our state great. I hope we can help you with your genetic needs. Whether it's live animals, semen or embryos, Illinois farmers are here to help.

Thank you for giving the Department an opportunity to share the story of Illinois agriculture.

***Jerry Costello II***

Director of the Illinois  
Department of Agriculture



# Swine



## Illinois Offers:

- *Swine that perform consistently under a variety of weather conditions and management styles, this is a result of years of painstaking work by geneticists, breeders, and commercial producers who were committed to true genetic progress.*
- *All breeds: Yorkshire (Large White), Landrace, Duroc, Hampshire, Berkshire, Pietrains and other exotic breeds, which possess the most desirable carcass and production traits sought by breeders and producers the world over.*
- *The U.S. is one of the world's leading pork-producing and exporting countries and Illinois is the 4th largest pork producing state.*
- *Everything from pure great grandparent stock to crossbreds in both boars and gilts, as well as fresh and frozen semen.*



# Beef

## Illinois Offers:

- *Since beef is so prevalent in Illinois, beef herds stretch statewide, representing all the major breeds: Angus (Black and Red), Beefmaster, Brangus, Charolais, Hereford, Limousin, Santa Gertrudis, Senepol and Simmental.*
- *Good genetics are essential to operation profitability and Illinois has large selections of breeding bulls, stock cows, and heifers both registered and commercial, while selection can be done using expected progeny differences (EPDs) .*
- *The Illinois beef breeds can provide gentle disposition, tender beef, carcass quality, strong hybrid vigor, maternal and paternal traits, efficiency, calving ease, polled, disease and insect resistance.*
- *Illinois' high-quality beef cattle genetics have been developed to fit climates that range from tropical to arctic.*



# Dairy

## Illinois Offers:

- **Both registered and commercial grade identified dairy animals are available. The National Dairy Herd Improvement Association provides testing accuracy of most herds milk production, milk fat, milk protein, Somatic Cell Count (SCC), as well as animal information on birth date, pregnancy, and number of lactations.**
- **Herds with years of successful performance from generations of cattle that have been bred for good health, high milk production and quality, benefiting from a selection focus on total economic merit including production, type, health and longevity.**
- **All dairy breeds: Holstein (Black/White and Red/White), Jersey, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Ayrshire and Milking Shorthorn.**
- **Besides live animals, Illinois exports high quality semen and embryos, which include sexed semen embryos as well.**
- **Illinois dairy cattle perform in all climates: from extreme humidity and heat to extreme cold.**

# Equine

## Illinois Offers:

- **Over 70 breeds of registered or commercial identified grade horses, mules and ponies of all disciplines: high quality racehorses, dressage, jumping, English and Western competition, pleasure riding, small miniature, large draft-horses for all riding and driving needs.**
- **A complete line up of equine support equipment and supplies: high quality saddles, driving harnesses, carriages and other horse drawn vehicles hand made by experienced craftsmen. Everything including halter, farrier, barn supplies to training and health remedies.**
- **Professional experienced horsemen, many whose farms have been in operation since before 1850, have the expertise and ability to handle the preparation, quarantine, transport and safe shipping of all equine Internationally with expedience and integrity.**
- **Can supply one animal or a plane-load to meet anyone's needs. Each animal is prepared and delivered to their International (or domestic) buyer under close veterinarian supervision and monitored by the Illinois Dept of Ag and the USDA.**



# Goats

## Illinois Offers:

- *Generations of goats bred to provide a diverse range of performance for growth, carcass merit, reproduction, and milk characteristics.*
- *Both Registered and Commercial Grade Identified meat and milk animals are available, monitored by National Associations.*
- *Performance in all climates: from extreme humidity and heat to extreme cold.*
- *Exports of high quality goat semen, fresh and frozen as well as frozen embryos in addition to live animals.*
- *Many varieties of goats from meat and milk breeds: Boer, Rangeland, Kiko, Spanish, Myotonic, Alpine, LaMancha, Nubian, Saanen, Sable, Oberhasli, Nigerian Dwarf and Toggenburgs.*





# Sheep

## Illinois Offers:

- **Illinois offers most meat, milk, wool and hair sheep breeds: Border Leicester, Cheviot, Columbia, Cotswold, Dorper, Dorset, Hampshire, Katahdin, Lincoln, Montadale, Oxford, Rambouillet, Shropshire, Southdown, Suffolk, and Tunis.**
- **Illinois flock health and management programs ensure the quality and use of genetic material for global production.**
- **Besides live animals, Illinois exports high quality frozen sheep semen and embryos.**
- **Illinois sheep provide a diverse range of performance for growth, carcass merit, reproduction, milk, wool and hair characteristics.**
- **Illinois sheep have the genetic variability which can be used to optimize production under varying climates, nutritional environments and management systems.**
- **Both registered and commercial grade identified meat and milk animals are available in Illinois... monitored by National Associations.**

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