

Publication of an application for registration pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin

(2006/C 3/03)

This publication confers the right to object to the application pursuant to Articles 7 and 12d of the above-mentioned Regulation. Any objection to this application must be submitted via the competent authority in a Member State, in a WTO member country or in a third country recognized in accordance with Article 12(3) within a time limit of six months from the date of this publication. The arguments for publication are set out below, in particular under 4.6, and are considered to justify the application within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92.

SUMMARY

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 2081/92

'ISLE OF MAN MANX LOAGHTAN LAMB'

EC No: UK/00340/05.04.2004

PDO (X) PGI ()

This summary has been drawn up for information purposes only. For full details, interested parties and in particular the producers of the products covered by the PDO concerned are invited to consult the complete version of the product specification obtainable at national level or from the European Commission ⁽¹⁾.

1. *Responsible department in the Member State:*

Name: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Food Chain Marketing and Competitiveness Division

Address: Area 4C, Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR, United Kingdom

Tel: 020 7238 6687

Fax: 020 7238 5728

Email: rlf.feedback@defra.gsi.gov.uk

2. *Group:*

Name: The Manx Loaghtan Sheep Breed Society

Address: Ballaloaghtan
Kerrowkeil Road
Grenaby
Isle of Man
IM9 3BB, United Kingdom

Tel: 01624 82 46 18

Fax: 01624 82 46 18

Email: enquires@manxloaghtan.com

(Registered Office: Whitehouse, Kirk Michael, Isle of Man)

Composition: producer/processor (X) other ()

3. *Type of product:*

Fresh meat — class 1.1

⁽¹⁾ European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture, Agricultural product quality policy, B-1049 Brussels.

4. Specification

(summary of requirements under Article 4(2))

4.1 Name: 'Isle of Man Manx Loaghtan Lamb'

4.2 Description: Isle of Man Manx Loaghtan Lamb is the name given to meat from pure bred Manx Loaghtan sheep, registered with the Breed Society, which have been born, raised and slaughtered on the Isle of Man. The meat is fine grained, less fatty and darker than meat from more commercial breeds. It has a distinct, gamey flavour. Dressed carcass weights range from 13 kg at 6 months to 18 kg at 15 months.

4.3 Geographical area: The Isle of Man.

4.4 Proof of origin:

The breed is thought to have been descended from those introduced in prehistoric times, from the flocks of the native Celts, or from flocks brought to the island by the Vikings.

Sheep farming has been long established on the island. One of the earliest written records shows that in the year 1376 Irish invaders defeated Manxmen in a battle and seized large numbers of sheep from Rushen Abbey. Subsequent historical references refer to the breed with respect to both its wool and meat. For example, in 1794 Basil Quayle writes that 'the ancient flocks are small and hardy, their usual weight is from five to eight pounds a quarter, the meat being particularly good'.

At the end of the 18th century a decline in the Manx Loaghtan breed was linked to social and economic factors, however, a revival came over the course of the 20th century as popularity of the breed increased as sheep farmers on the island recognised how adaptable the native breed is to the unique climate and geography of the Island. This renewed interest in the breed has been mirrored by consumers.

To comply with the Sheep and Goats Identification Order 2000, all sheep sent to the meat plant must be marked with a designated flockmark and accompanied by documentation which provides information which identifies the holding of departure, the date of movement and number of animals. It also records flockmarks, or individual identification numbers, which have previously been applied to each animal and is then signed by the owner or agent. It is possible for the origin of each carcass to be traced at the destination by reference to these labels.

In addition the Breed Society issues tags to the registered producers which are then attached to the sheep. The sheep are sent to the abattoir with their tags intact, a list of tag numbers accompanies them. After slaughter, a ticket, with the original tag number is attached to the carcass by the Government meat grader. The carcass is then delivered to the customer with details of the registered producers tag number.

Audit procedures provide 100 % traceability.

4.5 Method of production:

On the Isle of Man, Manx Loaghtans are reared on farms practising traditional forms of husbandry. Loaghtans thrive on poorer land, which has been basically left to nature — unimproved pasture, gorse and bracken scrub, and heather moorland and are markedly different in size and conformation from the same breed of sheep reared on fertilised, lowland grass pastures in the UK. In the early months of the year, feed supplements may be fed, with preferences given to the use of locally produced grain. Manx Loaghtans are very hardy and thrive in the damp, maritime climate of the Isle of Man where, although the mean winter temperatures are not extreme, gale force winds are common throughout the year. Lambing is unassisted by human intervention and takes place between February and May.

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The lambs are slaughtered at between 6-15 months of age. It is required to take place at the EU approved, abattoir on the island. The abattoir is government owned but run by a producer cooperative, The Fatstock Marketing Association. In view of the small geographical size of the Isle of Man, no animal is further than 30 minutes travelling time from the abattoir.

Carcass hanging time is a minimum of one week at the abattoir. Marketing takes place via the Manx Loaghtan Marketing Cooperative Ltd. Manx Loaghtan Lamb is sold as whole carcass to local wholesalers and also exported.

4.6 Link:

The link to the geographical area can be demonstrated as follows:

- (i) the long established link between the breed and the island. The breed is believed to have been on the island for over one thousand years and are ideally adapted to the unique environment of the island (its topography, soils and climate) being hardy and able to graze the unimproved grass of the higher land. The breed requires little or no supplementary feeding except before lambing. The breed's adaptability to the island climate meant that for centuries they were the only sheep on the island and the animal husbandry and stockmanship skills required to rear these animals have been passed down from generation to generation of Manx farming families.

The animals are reared in the traditional way on farms being extensively grazed on the characteristic island vegetation of unimproved pasture, gorse and bracken scrub, and heather moorland. The long tradition of sheep farming on the island has led to high standards of flock management and the production of lambs of a high quality.

- (ii) the fact that the meat comes from pure bred Manx Loaghtan sheep which have been born, raised and slaughtered on the island.

4.7 Inspection body:

Name: CMI Certification Ltd
Address: Long Hanborough
Oxfordshire
OX29 8LH, United Kingdom
Tel: 01993 88 56 21
Fax: 01993 88 56 11
Email: enquiries@cmicertification.com

4.8 Labelling:

The approved PDO symbol will be used at point of sale and on any packaging containing the product.

In recognition of the fact that Manx Loaghtan Lamb is being produced off the island the applicants confirm that use of that term on the packaging/labelling of that product can continue provided that the lamb being marketed by producers off the island derives from pure bred Manx Loaghtan sheep and that the origin of that product is clearly shown.

4.9 National requirements: —
