Rare breed survival

1 Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions.

Between 1900 and 1973, 26 native breeds **1.** ..... livestock and many varieties of poultry became extinct. This was caused **2.** ..... changing farming methods and a much more intensive approach **3.** ..... food production.
In the 1960s, a small group of pioneers launched a campaign to prevent further losses of native breeds. Their vision was translated **4.** ..... 1973 into RBST (Rare Breeds Survival Trust), an organisation dedicated to the conservation of Britain's livestock heritage.
RBST was the first national charity created **5.** ..... the genetic conservation and has acted **6.** ..... a model for similar organisations in many other countries. Since RBST's formation no native breed has been lost.
In 2001, the whole country was shaken by the devastating effects of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) which saw the destruction of thousands of farm animals.
Rarity is no protection **7.** ..... the measures which have to be taken to contain outbreaks **8.** ..... FMD and this event emphasized the need **9.** ..... preserve genetic resources of rare breeds, should such a situation arise again.
For the future, the target of the trust is to facilitate and encourage the conservation of native livestock breeds, both for their intrinsic value and for their significant contribution to wider sustainability. Every year RBST issues its annual Watchlist, which highlights any changes in breed population trends and plots the success of the Trust's key charitable objective, namely the preservation of farm livestock biodiversity in the UK.
The role of RBST is wide-ranging and includes:

- monitoring the population of breeds
- promoting the value of native breeds to the public and representing their interests to government
- contributing to scientific research
- supporting and encouraging responsible breeding programmes
- working **10.** ..... governments to minimise the impact of disease outbreaks
- maintaining and developing a genetic archive: the National Gene Bank containing genetic material **11.** ..... rare cattle, sheep, goat, pig and equine breeds **12.** ..... the RBST Watchlist. The aim of the project is to collect straws of semen from 25 males of each breed, as unrelated as possible to represent the widest range of genetic diversity available from the current population.

RBST has its headquarters **13.** ..... the National Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh Park **14.** ..... Warwickshire and is supported by a network of volunteer support groups which represent RBST **15.** ..... shows, events and fundraise **16.** ..... the charity.

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2 Choose the incorrect option.

1. The Rare Breeds Survival Trust…
- **a.** is the leading European charity working to conserve native livestock breeds.
- **b.** protects the UK's rare native breeds of farm animals from extinction.
- **c.** has been working since 1973.
- **d.** safeguards Britain's remaining native breeds from extinction.

2. FMD …
- **a.** is a foot and mouth disease.
- **b.** broke out in the UK in 2010.
- **c.** led to the extinction of some breeds.
- **d.** outbreak highlighted how important genetic archives are.

3. The main targets of RBST are…
- **a.** securing the continued existence and viability of the UK's native farm animal genetic resources.
- **b.** gathering information to produce population statistics for all endangered breeds.
- **c.** rising funds from farmers.
- **d.** co-operating with research organisations.

4. The Watchlist…
- **a.** is the most important document issued by RBST.
- **b.** is produced annually.
- **c.** monitors the population of breeds.
- **d.** lists native and non-native breeds.

5. In 1973 some concerned farmers…
- **a.** felt that so many ancient British breeds of farm livestock had been lost forever.
- **b.** thought that something should be done to ensure no more breeds became extinct.
- **c.** pioneered genetic conservation of farm livestock.
- **d.** felt that genetic resources of rare breeds did not have to be preserved.

6. A Gene Bank…
- **a.** collects semen of different breeds.
- **b.** stores straws of semen for use in conservation breeding programmes.
- **c.** is a bank of geniuses.
- **d.** is a genetic archive.

7. Support groups…
- **a.** help at raising funds for charity.
- **b.** have their headquarters at the National Agricultural Centre.
- **c.** organise events to promote the value of native breeds to the public.
- **d.** are a network of volunteers throughout the country.



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