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GLOBAL

Impacto del COVID 19 en mercados agroalimentarios

03 April 2020 The COVID-19 pandemic has already disrupted the world's food supplies and is causing labour shortages in the agriculture sector – how resilient is our food system?

In a recent analysis published in Reuters, Gus Trompiz explains the market trends around the global coronavirus pandemic.

He begins by exploring the possibility of food shortages and the effects of erratic consumer demand. Earlier this month, panic buying by shoppers cleared supermarket shelves of staples such as pasta and flour as populations worldwide prepared for lockdowns.

Meat and dairy producers as well as fruit and vegetable farmers struggled to shift supplies from restaurants to grocery stores, creating the perception of shortages for consumers.

Retailers and authorities say there are no underlying shortages and supplies of most products have been or will be replenished. Bakery and pasta firms in Europe and North America have increased production.

Food firms say panic purchasing is subsiding as households have stocked up and are adjusting to lockdown routines.

The logistics to get food from the field to the plate, however, are being increasingly affected and point to longer-term problems.

In the short-term, lack of air freight and trucker shortages are disrupting deliveries of fresh food.

Longer-term, lack of labour is affecting planting and harvesting and could cause shortages and rising prices for staple crops in a throwback to the food crises that shook developing nations a decade ago.

With many planes grounded and ship containers hard to find after the initial coronavirus crisis in China, shipments of vegetables from Africa to Europe or fruit from South America to the United States are being disrupted.

A labour shortage could also cause crops to rot in the fields.

When looking at the commodity markets, Trompiz notes that swings in commodity prices aren't necessarily passed on in prices of grocery goods. Food firms typically buy raw materials in advance in an effort to keep prices stable. However, sustained price hikes will eventually be passed onto consumers. Some poorer countries subsidise food to keep prices stable.

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation has warned that a rush to buy by countries that rely on imports of staple foods could fuel global food inflation, despite ample reserves of staple crops.

When exploring the possibility of wider food shortages, analysts say that global supplies of the most widely consumed food crops are adequate. Wheat production is projected to be at record levels in the year ahead.

However, the concentration of exportable supply of some food commodities in a small number of countries and export restrictions by big suppliers concerned they have enough supply at home can make world supply more fragile than headline figures suggest.

Mercado de cuero sufre por la situación mundial

Jon Condon, March 25, 2020

CATTLE hides are the latest beef industry commodity to buckle under the impact of COVID-19, with reports this week that international buyers and traders have more or less withdrawn from making offers on Australian hides.

Northern Cooperative Meat Co chief executive Simon Stahl told Beef Central yesterday that over the weekend, the Italians had stopped leather goods manufacturing and tannery operations, mostly located in northern Italy.

"It means Italy won't be taking shipments of hides any time soon, and Australia's other primary hides processing and tanning market, China, is also heavily impacted," Mr Stahl said.

Hides prices have in fact been desperately low for the past two years (see earlier story) but just prior to Coronavirus had 'found a floor,' he said.

"The good news was that the world was starting to embrace leather again, for fashion, furniture and vehicle seats. But this epidemic has brought it all to a screaming halt – so much so that I'm concerned now that the entire trade in hides out of Australia could be held up, for maybe a month or two," he said.

That left only two options: stockpiling, or disposal as landfill.

"It's meant that there is literally no price offers in the market, at present, full stop. It doesn't sound good for the market, at all," Mr Stahl said.

Hides now basically 'unsaleable'



Hides industry spokesman Victor Topper, president of the Australian Hides, Skin and Leather Exporters Association, said hides in Australia this week were basically 'unsaleable.'

"There is no market at present," he said.

The primary cause was that the leather market had basically "closed its windows and pulled down the blinds," Mr Topper said.

"The tanning industry in Italy has shut down, as it has in Spain, and right across Europe. And leather goods manufacturers are in the same boat – users like Louis Vuitton and Chanel at the top of the fashion segment, have closed all their stores, and the second-tier users like the auto and furniture sectors are the same, with stock backing up, and impacting every origin," he said.

In other hides buying regions, the Chinese tanners were operating, to some degree, but they were using domestic hides only at present, Mr Topper said. In North America, current exceptionally large beef kills were pushing a lot of hides onto the market, at a time when a percentage of the US's own tanning and manufacturing industry was closed down due to coronavirus. As a result, the US was trying to dump hides into Asia, both salted and wet-blue, at any price.

Mr Topper said not only were there no offers for Australian hides this week, but orders that traders already had on their books were disappearing.

"Our business (AI Topper) lost a significant number of containers just yesterday afternoon, alone," he said.

"Orders were cancelled by customers, because commerce is just closing down, right across Europe and North America."

"Why would any tanner buy hides today, when they know next week they're likely to be cheaper?" he said.

Adding to the dilemma for the Australian beef and hides industry, rates of slaughter were up, because the domestic retail market, particularly, was 'absolutely buoyant' as consumers raced to stockpile beef for consumption at home.

Asked what the options were for unsold hides, Mr Topper said even back as far as October last year, hides were considered to be going into landfill in some areas – such was the lack of international demand.

"Some of the smaller processing operators were in fact paying us \$8 or \$9 per hide to take them away. That was offsetting our own hides processing cost, at a time when it was costing \$14 or \$15 each just to bury them," he said.

"But at least they were selling back then. In January/February the hides market was starting to gain a little traction again, just before Chinese New Year. But that's now stopped dead – and the reality is that nobody knows where the finish line is in all this."

"We'll still see the odd buyer coming in and wanting to buy one or two containers at an opportunistic price, but in all practical terms, the hides market is totally shut down."

Even prior to the latest developments, there was a problem over the past five or six weeks getting access to shipping containers, as both incoming product coming into Australia and exports leaving Australia slowed.

"We had trouble getting containers for the hides we had."

Mr Topper said he expected hides customers overseas would now remain in hibernation, until they had some clear sight of how business would progress, going forward.

"Once there are decreased numbers of COVID-19 detections in customer countries, perhaps a little more optimism might return, and hides trade may resume, as users get back to business. Tanneries in Italy, for example, are due to re-assess at the end of the first week in April, but that may be optimistic."

OECD estima efectos sobre la economía

03.19.2020 By Holly Demaree-Saddler BEIJING — The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) recent report expects the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) to create a severe impact on China and global economy.

"Restrictions on movement of people, goods and services, and containment measures such as factory closures have cut manufacturing and domestic demand sharply in China," the OECD said. "The impact on the rest of the world through business travel and tourism, supply chains, commodities and lower confidence is growing."

The report offers a best and worse case scenario dependent upon how COVID-19 spreads. In either case, the OECD is imploring governments to take precautions and help limit the spread, protect people, businesses and the impact on the economy.

"The virus risks giving a further blow to a global economy that was already weakened by trade and political tensions," said Laurence Boone, chief economist of the OECD. "Governments need to act immediately to contain the epidemic, support the health care system, protect people, shore up demand and provide a financial lifeline to households and businesses that are most affected."

In the best-case scenario, a slowdown in world growth is expected in the first half of 2020 as supply chains and commodities are hit, tourism decreases and confidence fades. The report anticipates global economic growth to fall 2.4% for the whole year compared to 2.9% in 2019, while a rise to 3.3% in 2021 is expected.



The OECD revised China's growth to below 5% in 2020 compared to 6.1% in 2019. But if COVID-19 continues to spread similarly as it did in China, it could decrease global growth as low as 1.5%, the OECD noted.

Comercio mundial de carnes rojas enfrenta sensible caída

02 April 2020 Sweeping downgrades to global growth forecasts have been made by various consultancy groups over the last week. After a year mired by trade wars and uncertainty, 2020 was pitched to be a clean slate with brighter growth prospects. The US-China Phase 1 Agreement was seen as the first green shoots of this improved global environment. Initial optimism has switched to mass pessimism as the realities of COVID-19 weigh down the prospects of developed and developing economies alike.

So how may Australian red meat fare in these tumultuous times? Some lessons can be learnt from the impact of the 2008-2009 Global Financial Crisis (GFC) however the beast this time around is vastly different in terms scale, breadth and policy solutions.

Global growth write-downs

While some of the more revered economic forecasts come from institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, these are often delayed and less frequent. Consultancy groups – such as Fitch Solutions, IHS Markit and the Economist Intelligence Unit, among others – have all weighed in with more current growth projections for 2020 in recent days. The table below contrasts current growth forecasts for 2020 with where they started the year and provides a comparison against the impact from GFC. Clearly, the global economy, and most of Australia's key red meat markets, are facing a significant slowdown or outright recession as a result of Covid-19 disruption.

What can be learned from the GFC?

It can be difficult to quantify the impact of macro-economic shocks upon a single red meat category - especially when a broad range of other factors influence prices and trade. However, analysing currency adjusted export prices does reflect a downward shift in demand at the height of the GFC.

As illustrated below, average export prices in the first half of 2019 declined 22% year-on-year for beef, and 5% and 10% for lamb and mutton respectively. Beef export prices, due to their exposure and correlation to the severely hit US market, were impacted by a greater degree than sheepmeat values. While the slowdown triggered by the GFC last multiple years, fantastic Australian rainfall in 2010 and 2011, and the upward pressure from livestock prices, blurred the impact of the prolonged global contraction.

Although the demand impact on Australian red meat was muted and temporary in 2009 that doesn't mean the impact from Covid-19 will pass freely. The nature of the two economic shocks and are vastly different and Australia's reliance on global trade for red meat sales has only increased.

Firstly, the downturn is forecast to be far more severe. The IMF estimate global real GDP declined 0.1% in 2009; some recent forecasts for 2020 have the contraction pegged to be greater than 2%.

Secondly, the contraction in growth in 2020 is impacting both developed and developing economies, notably the addition of China, India and South East Asia this time around. Australia, still the industry's most valuable red meat market, is also pegged to dip into recession after the longest period of uninterrupted growth in history.

Global-growth-forecast-020420.jpg

During the GFC, China unleashed a wave of stimulus to ensure the economy ticked over at 9.4% growth in 2009. This time around, China, like many emerging countries, is holding back, burdened with already high debt levels. While March data out of China shows an improvement in industrial production and people returning to work, with a collapse in global demand, China will have reduced export-led growth.

Despite massive stimulus packages announced in the US this week, and big monetary measures anticipated in the EU, most pundits estimate many developed countries will still fall into recession as parts of the economy simply grind to a halt.

Lastly, the recovery from Covid-19 may be slower than the GFC. The risk of reoccurring outbreaks may temper the recovery and the massive fiscal stimulus measures announced to keep business afloat may lead to severe austerity measures in years to come.

Food more sheltered than most sectors

While the impact from covid-19 on Australian red meat demand may be more severe than any economic downturn in recent history, the industry will be more sheltered than most sectors. Primarily, people still need to eat and the surge in retail demand for red meat in the likes of Australia and the US over the last fortnight reflects this appetite.

However, this current slowdown differs from previous recessions given the nature of human interaction and consumption has fundamentally, and in some ways permanently, changed. Foodservice, a critical channel for higher-value beef and lamb cuts, may struggle to return to pre-crisis levels for some time yet. As unemployment rises and household budgets take a hit, many consumers in retail may opt for purchasing



more affordable options, such as mince instead of steak. The channel and demand shift during this slowdown will continue to make balancing a carcass challenging.

Meanwhile, African Swine Fever remains a critical issue for global protein markets to grapple with. While it has disappeared from headlines, it continues to spread across South East Asia (most recently into PNG) and the massive pork gap it has created in China will continue to bolster global protein markets over the next few years.

The significant markdown in the Australian dollar, currently hovering around 60US¢, is also helping mitigate the price impact from demand uncertainty. This shift in demand is also occurring at a time when Australia's herd and flock are at historical lows, and the forecast contraction in livestock supply over the next couple of years may shelter Australian cattle and sheep prices from global forces.

CHINA

Demanda con signos de recuperación

Jon Condon, April 1, 2020 SOME early, if tentative green shoots are emerging in Australia's export beef trade to China, as the Asian giant begins its long recovery from the ravages of coronavirus.

An Australian non-packer exporter with exposure to the China market provided a briefing to Beef Central this morning, highlighting some positive opportunities for Australian beef.

MLA Technical Consultant Calvin Gung, from Taiwan, and Singapore-based MLA chef and consultant David Carew, on the job at beef cooking demonstrations in China last year.

Government's supportive responses to COVID-19, including yesterday's announcement about underwriting airfreight export shipments to markets like China, and providing support to ensure that Australia's port and stevedoring infrastructure continues to function during the disease control period, are helping enormously, Beef Central was told.

In sharp contrast, export beef competitors in South America are now facing considerable headwinds in export capability.

Reports are emerging of blockages and delays in ports in Brazil and Argentina this week, as both countries move late, to counter the local spread of COVID-19. Waterside workers unions in some South American countries have also refused to work, amid the outbreak, and local mayors have ordered the closure of key terminals in Argentina over coronavirus fears.

While local media coverage to this point has been minimal, one source in Brazil told Australian trade contacts this week that the country's primary beef export port at Santos was currently an 'absolute disaster.' Some say the extent of COVID-19 infection in Brazil is much worse than what is being publicly reported.

In a second development, Argentina's government has banned beef exports for the next fortnight, as a response to local concerns around food shortages.

If those logistics and political problems grow to a more serious level, as some trade sources believe they will, Australia could be well-positioned to benefit, with increased beef demand out of China.

China last year accounted for about 75pc of Argentina's beef exports, 41pc for Brazil (including Hong Kong) and 69pc for Uruguay. Any major disruption in port operations in South America could leave a large hole to fill for protein imports, made worse by the ongoing protein deficit associated with African Swine Fever.

In contrast, Australia's beef shipments to China last year were just 26pc of total exports.

Volume growth?

With Australia's March monthly export figures due out in coming days, speculation is turning to export volumes into China since the onset of COVID-19.

"As a customer, China is definitely waking up, but I'd be surprised if volume is yet back to 20 or 30pc of where it was towards the end of last year," a trader told Beef Central.

"There's some business going into China at the moment among the larger, more regular retailers – mostly chilled meat. But cheaper frozen beef is still much further behind," he said.

The trader thought prices were now reflective of the period prior to the 'mini-boom' that took place from October to December last year.

"That's where the levels are on some chilled products – but chilled still only represents a small portion of overall trade," he said.

"Regardless, we're now seeing a very different demand message out of China. Last year, during the buying frenzy that happened in the last quarter, the message was 'Just send beef: it doesn't matter what it is.' That's now been replaced with much more select buying."

"It's really a two-tiered market at present, for chilled and frozen, but we think chilled will now become a bigger portion of overall China trade out of Australia. It might get to 20pc this year, or maybe more, up from 5pc historically. But that percentage change is also being driven by smaller volumes of frozen, of course."

"The Chinese people with the cash are going to be the chilled customers, for the time being – so it might be a really good time for promoting a higher quality chilled Australian article."



Chinese customers seeking 'clean and green'

Some Australian exporters are providing feedback suggesting Chinese customers now have a heightened preference for 'clean and green,' in their beef purchasing, given the disease events of the past three months.

"There's definitely a move to push clean and green protein to the top of the list, and that even extends into demand for Certified Organic," one trader told Beef Central this morning.

"Rightly or wrongly, they are aligning COVID-19 with food safety and wholesomeness in beef. That has to be a positive for Australia, and we think that trend will persist, as the China market recovers. They may become far more discerning on protein, generally, in the post COVID-19 era."

"When the current Australian domestic retail market 'sugar rush' demand for beef subsides, which it inevitably will, with people now holding tuckerbox freezers full of frozen beef, we're going to need other significant markets, and China is going to play a role in that," the trader said.

Reports continue to emerge that port facilities and movement of sea cargo in China are starting to get back to normal.

Surcharges that were put on by shipping companies have now all been waived, Beef Central was told, meaning the cost to do business in China is now beginning to "look more attractive again."

"The US\$1000/container surcharge that was being applied earlier was such a big part of the value of cheaper items – especially when the Aussie dollar crashed to US 55c," the trader said.

"It was tolerable on higher value meats, but on those cheaper items that really drive the yield from each carcass, it made trade very hard. It was adding 25pc to freight costs, on some cheaper items," he said.

Asked to describe the general mood of beef inquiry out of China at present, a meat trader used the words, 'cautiously optimistic.'

"It's slowly becoming more buoyant. Prices on better quality chilled product are getting back to world parity again."

Loin cuts key challenge

But loin cuts remain the big problem faced by the meat trade in coming months.

"We don't have a food service market available at present across the whole of Australia, or Asia – and they are the big user of loin cuts," the trader said.

"All the demand in Australia is on trim and lean cuts like knuckles that can be minced. There's no real market for those food service items like fillets, cube rolls or striploins heading into winter, and I'd anticipate that people in the trade will be mincing striploins within six weeks, the way things are going."

"We need a market like China to come along, with some renewed vigour, to find a home for some of that meat. China will come in on a lot of the butt cuts, but unfortunately they have never been a real loin cut market – that's where we are going to have to really lean on markets like Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea, which have a bit more money to spend."

Efectos iniciales del coronavirus

26 March 2020

Key points:

Major disruptions to red meat supply and logistics

Shifts in consumer red meat shopping and consumption

Operational pivots in foodservice and retail red meat sales

The impact of Covid-19 on each country's red meat market will be shaped by many factors. This includes underlying ones, such as the degree of dependence on imports and the prominence of red meat in consumer diets, and more immediate ones, such as how virus-spread control measures are implemented and ability of the healthcare system to deal with serious cases.

Covid-19's impact in China was compounded by the crisis coinciding with Lunar New Year, typically the peak season for red meat purchases and consumption and when many businesses shut down for 1-2 weeks holiday. Hence, labour shortages across the supply chain due to quarantining, illness and travel bans were compounded by the national holiday.

While the epicentre of Wuhan responded with the deepest and longest shutdown, our insights below refer mostly to the rest of the country, particularly coastal Tier 1 and 2 cities where the vast majority of Australian red meat arrives, is stored, distributed, further processed and consumed.

Despite its unique dimensions, China, as the first country to deal with Covid-19, can illustrate the impact on red meat through supply and logistics, sales channels and consumption habits. China offers insight into some likely impacts, challenges and opportunities as the virus spreads into other markets.

The evolution of Covid-19, and the impact on logistics and consumer markets, can be considered in three primary phases: shock and reaction, lockdown and adaptation, and a gradual shift to a new normal. These stages are discussed below but, given China and the rest of the world remain in uncharted territory, it is unclear how the landscape may continue to evolve, with second-wave infection posing added risk.

Covid-phases-impact-1.png



First stages: Shock and reaction

Panic purchasing of all red meat segments (from hot loose, chilled & frozen packaged to canned and meat ready-meals) for stock-up, prioritising volume purchasing of familiar staple cuts for traditional day-to-day dishes, which in China tends to be more bone-in cuts for wet slow-cooking rather than steak cuts for pan frying.

Sudden panic-buying disrupts meat retail inventories and supply. Many wet markets start to close with retailers focusing on boosting supply of staple cuts.

Consumer purchasing focuses on availability with less price sensitivity.

Consumers begin avoiding eating with large family and social groups and avoid eating out at restaurants, with some increase in take-away and delivery food services.

Higher-end foodservice outlets mostly shut down, with some excess meat supply diverted to retail. Some mid- and lower-end outlets adjust operations to meet higher demand for drive-through, take-away and home delivery services.

Middle stages: Lockdown and adaptation

Supply and logistics:

Air-freight drops with travel bans and reduced passenger flights, causing supply disruption into some channels. Port activity slows and refrigerated containers build up, hindering supply of imports and re-circulation of refrigerated containers back into the global market. Travel bans and labour shortages disrupt product delivery to retail and foodservice channels.

Expansion of non-contact distribution services (online, home delivery, click-&-collect) by some grocery retailers and foodservice operators challenged by labour shortage and transport bans.

Consumer changes:

Consumers shift to mostly scratch-cooking of familiar dishes at home with fresh produce and meat, interspersed with occasional prepared foods, meal delivery and home-cooking experimentation for variety and enjoyment. Cooking and eating become a particularly important element of lock-down home life and spending on fresh grocery increases.

Higher priority placed on hygiene and dietary nutrition for health and immunity and, hence, greater consumption of red meat for its perceived high nutritional value. Stronger demand for safe, high quality meat, benefiting premium suppliers like Australia.

Greater use of contactless service offerings for fresh grocery delivery.

Shift from purchasing hot, loose meat to chilled, packaged meat, particularly from local modern smaller-format grocery stores.

Retail and foodservice:

Shift in offline grocery retail traffic as hours are amended, with some growth in local smaller-format grocery retail and most wet markets close. Greater emphasis on hygiene and packaging of popular staple cuts.

Operational adjustments made to meet higher demand for hygienic front-gate delivery of packaged fresh produce and meat.

As eating-out shuts down, consumers explore other options for variety and home-cooking relief, turning to 'contactless' online meal services for front door delivery, drive-through and take-away. Hotel food services mostly closed, with room service only where open.

Final Stages: Gradual return to a new normal (At this stage these are potential forecasts for the future)

Supply and logistics:

Lack of travel and tourism still limiting air freight. Port back-logs begin to clear and lifting of domestic travel and work bans facilitate resumption of meat processing and distribution to retail and foodservice.

Businesses review their strategies for supply chain digitisation, diversification and inventory management with greater focus on risk management.

Consumer changes:

Consumer demand begins to return to normal and discretionary spending increases, as interest in novelty and variety re-emerges.

Sustained prioritisation of safety, hygiene, trust and transparency, with higher demand for chilled, packaged meat products from modern retail stores.

Resumption of some occasional eating out to satisfy pent-up demand.

Retail and foodservice:

Restaurants begin to open, mid- and lower-end more quickly than higher-end, with hotel foodservice slower to resume as people continue to avoid unnecessary travel.

Retailers begin to provide a wider range of chilled packaged meat product assortment to meet higher consumer need for trust and higher quality semi-prepared product, as consumers maintain a higher commitment to home cooking and eating. Sustained expansion of contactless delivery services and further development of omni-channel merging of retail and foodservice offers initially driven by consumer demand during lockdown.



It is clear now that even though China appears to be emerging from Covid-19 shutdown, the crisis is escalating in the rest of the world and will continue to disrupt consumption of Australian red meat domestically and around the globe.

What's Next?

In the coming weeks, MLA will present further insights into Covid-19 implications for Australia's red meat industry including potential changes in consumer behaviour and shifts in post-crisis retail and foodservice offerings.

BRASIL

CEPEA:mercado instável

Fonte: Cepea. This post was last modified on 3 de abril de 2020 12:37

Em meio a tantas incertezas relacionadas ao operacional da cadeia e ao comportamento da demanda – seja interna ou externa –, para curto e médio prazos, o mercado pecuário esteve instável no correr de março, conforme apontam pesquisas do Cepea.

Os preços da arroba do boi gordo iniciaram o mês bastante firmes, sustentados pela baixa oferta de animais para abate. Já no início da segunda metade do mês, o avanço de casos de coronavírus no Brasil trouxe incertezas aos agentes de mercado consultados pelo Cepea, que passaram a trabalhar com bastante cautela. Nesse período, os preços da arroba se enfraqueceram.

No encerramento de março, entretanto, o cenário voltou a se alterar. Neste caso, o aquecimento da demanda do varejista no mercado atacadista, no intuito de abastecer os supermercados, resultou em novo movimento de elevação nos preços da arroba, de acordo com pesquisadores do Cepea, que acabaram recuperando as perdas registradas em meados do mês.

A demanda para exportação também seguiu dando sustentação às compras de animais a preços maiores. Além disso, a baixa disponibilidade de boi voltou a ficar evidente, o que fez com que pecuaristas recusassem as ofertas de valores menores, levando frigoríficos a abrir preços mais altos.

Em março (até o dia 31), o Indicador CEPEA/B3 registrou ligeira alta de 0,7%, fechando a R\$ 203,15 na terça-feira, 31. De 25 de março a 1º de abril, especificamente, o Indicador subiu 1,75%, a R\$ 203,00 no dia 1º.

Rabobank espera que China compre más carne brasileira

30/03/2020 - La entidad holandesa mantuvo estimaciones de crecimiento del 10,6% en el volumen de las exportaciones totales de carne bovina brasileña.

Faxcarne | Se espera que el ritmo de los envíos de carne brasileña a China aumente en las próximas semanas, según la información publicada por Rabobank. Esto se debe a que el país asiático anunció que logró controlar el brote del nuevo coronavirus.

Las exportaciones de carne brasileña y de la región a China se vieron afectadas a principios de año por la reducción en el ritmo de las operaciones portuarias y la distribución de productos en el país asiático, mientras que los chinos intentaron controlar la enfermedad.

“La información reciente de que el número de casos nuevos en China está disminuyendo indica que el virus está controlado y se espera que los envíos se reanuden con mayor fuerza en las próximas semanas”, escribieron los analistas del banco.

Rabobank mantuvo sus estimaciones de crecimiento del 10,6% en el volumen de las exportaciones totales de carne bovina brasileña para 2020 y del 3,5% para la producción, como proyectó a fines de 2019.

Con respecto al mercado interno en Brasil, Rabobank dijo que tiene expectativas positivas para la demanda de carne vacuna, pero considera que el avance acelerado de nuevos casos de coronavirus puede afectar negativamente la oferta, consignó Agrolink. De hecho, ya hubo plantas de faena que licenciaron a su personal la pasada semana y cerraron

Dificultades en el abasto local

Fonte: Valor Econômico. This post was last modified on 3 de abril de 2020 12:37

A rotina enclausurada dos brasileiros está tirando o sono de frigoríficos e açougueiros. Se é verdade que o consumo em casa aumentou, o que até chegou a provocar corrida aos supermercados, também já está claro para empresários e executivos da indústria de carne que desmontar um boi e vender suas partes no Brasil virou um desafio espinhoso.

Com o churrasco praticamente suspenso e lanchonetes e restaurantes fechados país afora, não há demanda para os cortes nobres, o que já obrigou frigoríficos de médio porte a congelar picanha, uma medida incomum. As vendas dos cortes nobres, os mais apreciados e com preços mais altos na composição do boi (10% da carcaça bovina), caíram mais de 50%, conforme duas fontes.



“Dizem que ninguém deixa de comer. Calma! O povo vai deixar de comer, sim. Ele vai para o frango e o ovo”, disparou um executivo da indústria, lembrando que a carne bovina é a proteína mais cara.

Nos últimos dias, o Valor entrevistou analistas e executivos de alguns dos principais frigoríficos do país para entender os impactos do coronavírus no segmento. É consenso que, com exceção dos exportadores – beneficiados pelo câmbio e pela retomada da demanda chinesa-, a situação das indústrias está longe de ser confortável.

Para boa parte das empresas, o mercado doméstico é o polo de escoamento. Embora o Brasil lidere as exportações mundiais de carne bovina, 75% da produção do país fica no mercado doméstico. Além disso, as maiores indústrias – JBS, Marfrig e Minerva Foods – concentram as exportações, respondendo por metade dos embarques. E nem mesmo as grandes estão imunes ao cenário de margem de lucro apertada, uma dificuldade que já antecedia às tormentas provocadas pela covid-19.

Vale lembrar que o ritmo de abates em frigoríficos fiscalizados pelo Serviço de Inspeção Federal (SIF), que respondem por mais de 70% das atividades formais, caiu no primeiro bimestre e, na terça-feira, o Ministério da Agricultura divulgou um relatório com dados parciais que indicaram que a retração se aprofundou no mês de março (ver infográfico).

No primeiro bimestre, as 224 unidades com SIF abateram 3,5 milhões de cabeças, queda de 12,6% ante o mesmo período de 2019. Com os dados de março, os abates trimestrais teriam amargado queda de 24%. Mas fontes ponderam que essa redução tende a ser menor, já que as informações de março, que indicaram uma queda de 47%, serão atualizadas até dia 10. Mas poucos negam que os abates pioraram e que a tendência deverá continuar em abril.

Para os frigoríficos, o problema não se resume à tibia da demanda interna. A oferta de boi gordo, matéria-prima que corresponde a cerca de 80% do custo de produção, é restrita. Na era da conectividade, os pecuaristas também se organizaram, e tentam ao máximo segurar o preço da arroba na casa dos R\$ 200 – considerando o Estado de São Paulo, uma referência para o restante do país. E, ainda que a retomada da demanda chinesa represente apenas a volta de um mercado que compra menos de 10% da produção brasileira, é o suficiente para sustentar o preço enquanto as pastagens são boas, o que mantém o preço do boi gordo quase 30% mais elevado do que há um ano.

É sobre esse tabuleiro que os frigoríficos se movem, paralisando temporariamente as atividades em abatedouros que, em geral, têm no mercado interno um peso mais relevante. Proteger as margens é o nome do jogo. Se em períodos normais as férias coletivas de frigoríficos já têm essa função, com a parada de plantas em períodos sazonalmente de menor oferta – que varia de acordo com a região -, a estratégia ganha força em tempos como os atuais.

No mês passado, JBS paralisou, por 20 dias, cinco frigoríficos. O Valor apurou que parte deles terá a paralisação, que começou em 19 de abril, estendida por dez dias. Paralelamente, a empresa está ampliando os abates em Barra do Garças (MT), unidade que tem habilitação para exportar à China, e dando férias coletivas nas plantas de Água Boa (MT) e Coxim (MS), dependentes das vendas domésticas. Procurada pela reportagem, a JBS não comentou.

Pelo gigantismo – 37 abatedouros no país -, a JBS é o grande frigorífico que mais depende das vendas no mercado interno. Mas a situação também atingiu as outras companhias. Em 23 de março, a Minerva paralisou, por entre 10 e 15 dias, quatro de seus nove abatedouros no Brasil, o que é mais, proporcionalmente, do que fez a JBS. Na ocasião, a companhia informou que a decisão estava “alinhada à piora dos cenários doméstico e global, que inclui queda da demanda no segmento de food service e limitações logísticas em diversas partes do mundo”, além de ser uma medida que ajuda a conter o coronavírus.

No caso da Marfrig, a revisão do parque fabril já vinha desde 2019, com o fechamento de três abatedouros e a ampliação da unidade de Várzea Grande (MT), habilitada pela China. Em meio à restrição de gado e às turbulências internas, a companhia está abatendo menos e também poderá lançar mão de férias coletivas em Mineiros (GO), tendo em vista que abril é um período de menor oferta de boi nessa região. No Brasil, o grupo tem 12 abatedouros.

Nesse cenário, há quem avalie que a demanda enfraquecida reduzirá o preço do boi, apesar da resistência dos pecuaristas e da oferta restrita. “Temos um mercado interno importante, e aqui o cenário é ruim”, disse César Castro Alves, analista do Itaú BBA. Além disso, nem todos os importadores estão se recuperando como a China. Na Europa, mercado nobre, as vendas estão paralisadas.

A chegada da entressafra das pastagens, em maio, poderá exercer pressão baixista sobre o gado. “O volume de chuvas diminui e a suplementação [grãos] está ficando cara. É um trunfo a menos para segurar o animal. Dependendo do fluxo de caixa, o produtor será obrigado a vender”, disse o analista Wagner Yanaguizawa, Rabobank.

Embora concorde que a entressafra pressionará o boi gordo, Mauricio Nogueira, sócio-diretor da consultoria Athenagro, pondera que a oferta é restrita. Para ele, o preço médio do gado será superior ao do ano passado, mas é improvável que as cotações voltem para a casa dos R\$ 230, patamar que fez a festa dos pecuaristas em novembro.



Estiman una reducción del 47 por ciento en la faena del mes de marzo

Fonte: Valor Econômico. This post was last modified on 1 de abril de 2020 10:21

Em meio à pandemia do novo coronavírus, os abates de bovinos no Brasil tiveram forte queda em março. É o que mostram dados preliminares do Ministério da Agricultura.

No mês passado, os frigoríficos fiscalizados pelo Serviço de Inspeção Federal (SIF) abateram 1,019 milhão de cabeças de bovinos, redução de 47% na comparação com os 1,943 milhões animais abatidos no mesmo intervalo do ano passado.

As unidades fiscalizadas pelos SIF são as maiores e as únicas que podem exportar e vender produtos entre os Estados do país. Há 224 abatedouros do gênero no Brasil. Segundo o Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE), os frigoríficos com fiscalização federal respondem por mais de 70% dos abates de bovinos do país.

Em março, a paralisação temporária de nove abatedouros com SIF — cinco da JBS, a partir do dia 19, e quatro da Minerva, a partir de 23 de março — ajudou a derrubar os abates. Mas outras empresas também reduziram o ritmo, de acordo com executivos do setor.

Além disso a queda nos abates de bovinos não ficou restrita ao mês de março e não pode ser exclusivamente debitada na conta da covid-19. No primeiro bimestre, quando a doença ainda não havia provocado grandes impactos no Brasil, o ritmo de abates já apresentava redução significativa.

Os abates em janeiro caíram 15,4% em janeiro, somando 1,814 milhões de cabeças. Em fevereiro, a redução foi de 9,6% ante igual período do ano passado, segundo dos dados do Ministério da Agricultura.

Com isso, os abates nas unidades com inspeção federal recuaram 23,9% no primeiro trimestre, somando 4,576 milhões de cabeças. No mesmo intervalo do ano passado, foram abatidas 6,015 milhões de cabeças de bovinos.

Segundo o dono de um frigorífico, as margens de lucro no mercado doméstico já estavam apertadas mesmo antes da piora da demanda que se seguiu à redução de circulação e paralisação do comércio nas principais cidades do país. No mercado externo, o início de ano também contou com uma demanda menor da China.

Do lado da oferta, as chuvas abundantes e o período de safra das pastagens ofereceram mais condições para o pecuarista segurar o gado no pasto. Também há um impacto do ciclo de médio prazo da pecuária, com maior retenção de vacas disponíveis para abate.

CEPEA: mayores costos para el engorde intensivo

Fonte: Cepea. This post was last modified on 19 de março de 2020 11:25

O boi magro e o milho negociados no estado de São Paulo registram atualmente os maiores patamares nominais das séries do Cepea. Esses dois itens são justamente os que mais pesam sobre o custo de produção do confinador. De acordo com levantamento do Cepea, em SP, o boi magro tem sido negociado entre R\$ 2.800,00 e R\$ 2.950,00.

Segundo pesquisadores do Cepea, esses preços maiores estão atrelados à oferta restrita de bezerros ao longo do último semestre e às valorizações do boi gordo, que estimulam pecuaristas a planejar e terminar seus animais no sistema de confinamento. Outro fator importante que influencia na decisão de confinar é o preço da alimentação, principalmente do milho – nesta semana, o cereal tem sido negociado entre R\$ 57,00 e R\$ 58,00/saca de 60 kg na região de Campinas (SP).

Nesse cenário, os pecuaristas que realizam confinamento precisam estar atentos à sazonalidade de preços do boi magro, bem como a possíveis intensificações das exportações de milho – especialmente diante do dólar elevado –, que podem limitar a disponibilidade doméstica e elevar os preços do cereal.

Assim, o ano de 2020 se mostra bastante desafiador para confinadores, visto que a pandemia de coronavírus tende a prejudicar os comércios doméstico e internacional, além de dificultar as projeções para o período.

Exportaciones brasileñas a CHINA crecieron en el mes de marzo

30 March 2020 China has resumed importing high quantities of Brazilian meat after slowing imports during the first two months of 2020.

According to reporting from Reuters, an industry source says that, "The Chinese have started buying again with more intensity."

The source works for a large meat exporter and asked not to be named in order to discuss the situation freely.

"The prices are not the same as at the end of last year, but they are still good prices, and the exchange rate helps a lot," the source added.



Brazil's currency, the Real, has fallen more than 25 percent so far this year against the dollar. Bigger purchases from China would boost Brazil's largest meat packers, such as Marfrig Global Foods, JBS and Minerva SA.

Cesar de Castro Alves, a consultant at Itau BBA, said exports to China have risen lately, even though those trends have not yet been captured by the export data released so far.

China will need some 2.9 million tonnes of beef this year, Alves said, to compensate for animals infected with African swine fever.

Gustavo Machado, from the consultancy Agrifatto, said prices paid by China had more than doubled since last year

Coronavírus cambió la distribución de la carne dentro y fuera del Brasil

Fonte: Globo Rural. This post was last modified on 18 de março de 2020 A pandemia do novo coronavírus criou dois cenários desafiadores para o setor de aves e suínos do Brasil, um interno e outro externo.

Dentro do país está havendo uma mudança drástica na forma como as pessoas se alimentam. Com uma tendência de consumo concentrado dentro das casas – resultado de um maior isolamento da população como prevenção à contaminação da doença –, as compras de restaurantes e serviços de fast foods caíram brutalmente.

“Haverá transferência de estoque de restaurantes e atacados para as geladeiras dos domicílios. A pessoa que antes comprava um peito de frango na semana agora vai comprar dez ou 12. Isso vai exigir um manejo dos canais de atuação e logística. Teremos mais canais demandando maiores volumes e que antes demandavam pequenas quantias”, explica o diretor-executivo da Associação Brasileira de Proteína Animal (ABPA), Ricardo Santin.

Segundo o executivo, a atividade dos fasts foods já deve ter diminuído em 60% com a mudança nos hábitos dos brasileiros dos últimos dias. Santin descartou a possibilidade de faltar carne no mercado, já que grandes frigoríficos vêm anunciando paralisação de operações de suas unidades no país.

Desafio externo

Já no mercado externo, o desafio será atender uma demanda crescente de carnes de frango e porco, especialmente com a gradativa retomada da China, maior comprador de proteína animal do Brasil.

Isso porque muitos navios que deixaram a costa brasileira para abastecer os países asiáticos no início do ano ainda não retornaram. Com o surto do coronavírus, formou-se um congestionamento de navios em diversas províncias da China que ainda estão à espera de liberação para descarregar as mercadorias.

O quadro tem causado uma pressão no setor logístico do Brasil, com uma procura maior por contêineres refrigerados. “Temos notícia de uma empresa que está colocando um navio inteiro de volta para o Brasil com contêineres vazios”, afirma Santin.

Escassez de contêineres

O Centro Nacional de Navegação Transatlântica (Centronave) já prevê uma escassez de contêineres no Brasil no fim deste mês devido ao atraso com o retorno dos contêineres.

A entidade, que representa as maiores empresas de navegação de longo curso, acredita que a situação será momentânea. “No caso de contêineres refrigerados (reefers), o congestionamento ainda é crítico em Shangai, Xingang e Ningbo”, disse o Centronave.

Uma viagem de navio entre Brasil e China dura de 30 a 40 dias, conforme o setor. “[O frete] vai custar um pouco mais caro, mas o comprador está pagando porque precisa. O importador tem interesse, e eles estão vivenciando essa crise. É uma crise mundial”.

Atenção governamental

Segundo Ricardo Santin, o Ministério da Agricultura tem consultado a cadeia produtiva sobre possíveis problemas causados pela pandemia, no curto e médio prazos, para agir antecipadamente.

“A ministra nos consultou ontem (segunda-feira) e hoje (terça), participou de reunião do nosso conselho. O governo está querendo saber o que o setor precisa e o que pode ter de problema adiante, para nos prevenirmos. Em um período de crise, proatividade é muito importante”, destaca.

Entre os pedidos do setor ao governo está um passe livre nas estradas do país, caso sejam adotadas medidas restrição de transportes. “Se por ventura tiver de aumentar a restrição de transportes e o tráfego de pessoas, que sejam estabelecidos corredores de passagem para o transporte de alimentos, incluindo a nutrição para os animais”, disse Santin.

Frigoríficos adotaram medidas ante la crisis

Fonte: Valor Econômico. This post was last modified on 17 de março de 2020 12:48

A propagação do coronavírus no Brasil e as dificuldades logísticas para exportar carne bovina devido à falta de contêineres começaram a prejudicar os frigoríficos brasileiros.

O Valor apurou que a JBS vai dar férias coletivas em cinco abatedouros de bovinos no país. Ao todo, a companhia tem 37 frigoríficos no país. A Minerva Foods, terceira maior indústria frigorífica no Brasil, seguirá caminho semelhante, mas só deve anunciar hoje o número de unidades que serão paralisadas.



A JBS vai paralisar, por 20 dias, as plantas de Nova Andradina (MS), Alta Floresta (MT) e Juína (MT). De acordo com uma fonte, a companhia ainda está definindo quais serão as outras duas unidades paralisadas. Procurada pela reportagem, a JBS informou que “vem monitorando os reflexos do mercado em relação à covid-19 e avalia a implantação de férias coletivas em algumas das suas unidades de processamento de bovinos do Brasil”.

No caso da Marfrig, segunda maior indústria de carne bovina do país, ainda não há uma determinação para paralisar plantas por causa do coronavírus, disse uma fonte. Mas a empresa vem acompanhando os impactos da pandemia diariamente e não está descartado que, nos próximos dias, unidades tenham as operações suspensas.

Um termômetro para a Marfrig deve ser as vendas no food service (alimentação fora do lar). Com as restrições impostas a bares e restaurantes no Rio de Janeiro e a menor movimentação em capitais como São Paulo, o consumo de carnes tende a ser afetado.

Paralelamente às repercussões do coronavírus, a Marfrig vai fechar o frigorífico de Tucumã, no Pará, nos próximos dias. Mas essa medida já estava programada e faz parte do plano de otimização que vinha sendo adotado pela companhia. No fim do ano passado, a Marfrig encerrou as atividades nos abatedouros de Nova Xavantina (MT) e Pirenópolis (GO).

Ao Valor, o presidente da Associação Brasileira das Indústrias Exportadoras de Carnes (Abiec), Antonio Camardelli, disse que a situação é “preocupante”. No mercado internacional, as quarentenas impostas em diversos países da Europa dificultam o transporte de cargas. Além disso, os portos-chave de descarga do bloco europeu estão praticamente parados, afirmou Camardelli.

Para os frigoríficos, o problema na Europa se somou às dificuldades logísticas provocadas pela parada forçada da economia chinesa. Como ficaram praticamente parados nos portos da China, os contêineres refrigerados agora são escassos no Brasil. Segundo Camardelli, a decisão dos armadores de só trazer contêineres carregados de volta retarda o processo. A China responde por cerca de 40% das exportações brasileiras de carne bovina.

Outro problema para os frigoríficos de carne bovina é a significativa redução das atividades do food service na Europa e também no Brasil. “O food service teve notícias muito ruins”, afirmou Camardelli.

Embora sofra com os problemas com a menor demanda fora do lar, a indústria também se mobiliza para garantir o abastecimento interno, viabilizando “corredores” para o transporte de alimentos e ração no caso de eventual quarentena no país.

URUGUAY

Mercado del gordo en coma, precios bajos y mínima operativa

02 de abril de 2020

Mercado del gordo en coma, precios bajos y mínima operativa

El mercado del ganado gordo mantiene la escasa operativa y una gran disparidad entre plantas tanto en precio como en categorías demandadas. La mayoría de los negocios concretados son para el abasto.

Con una demanda europea detenida y una tímida recuperación de China los frigoríficos proponen en el eje de US\$ 3 por kilo en cuarta balanza por los mejores novillos para exportación. Negocios puntuales de novillos excepcionales con destino al abasto alcanzaron los US\$ 3,15.

Para la vaca gorda –más demandada- se concretaron negocios entre US\$ 2,80 y US\$ 2,90 dependiendo de la calidad y US\$ 3,05 por vaquillonas para abasto. Las entradas se han acertado y son de aproximadamente una semana.

La sensación es de incertidumbre tanto en productores como a nivel industrial fundamentalmente por el cierre de negocios con Europa y por el paro de trabajadores de frigoríficos pertenecientes a Foica Cerro que comenzó el 1 de abril y afectó a seis industrias que concentran más del 60% de la faena.

En el mercado de reposición parece algo más de oferta aunque la demanda es cautelosa. Las categorías de negocios más a largo plazo (terneros, terneras y piezas de cría) muestran más firmeza.

Por terneros, los negocios a campo se concretan entre US\$ 2,30 y US\$ 2,35 por kilo en pie. Los terneros para la exportación en pie cotizan en el eje de los US\$ 2,25, entre cinco y 10 centavos menos que los precios conseguidos hace dos semanas.

Este miércoles fue la primera jornada del remate por pantalla de Lote21, los terneros promediaron US\$ 2,34, una caída de casi 5% respecto al remate anterior, con máximos de US\$ 2,70 y mínimo de US\$ 2,30.

Las categorías más próximas al gordo –negocios de corto plazo- siguen acentuando su baja. Por vacas de invernada se concretaron negocios esta semana entre US\$ 1,40 y US\$ 1,45, cuando a comienzos de año se lograban los US\$ 1,85.

En lanares el mercado ajustó a la baja en todas las categorías. Tan solo tres plantas concentran más del 80% de la faena. Los corderos y borregos cotizan en el entorno de US\$ 3,40. Los capones a US\$ 3,20 y las ovejas a US\$ 3,05.



Operativa reducida por el paro de FOICA

02 de abril de 2020 Con la operativa reducida por el paro de FOICA, la faena caerá 50% frente a la semana anterior, señaló industrial

Este miércoles comenzó el paro de parte de la Federación de Obreros de la Industria de la Carne y Afines (FOICA), correspondiente a la rama sindical Cerro. La medida se extenderá hasta el próximo miércoles 8 de abril.

De acuerdo a un relevamiento industrial al que accedió Ganadería.uy de 51 plantas industriales, 22 están sin actividad o con actividad parcial, ya sea por acatamiento al paro o decisión empresarial. De las que no están en actividad, seis no faenan por el paro.

El paro "genera un perjuicio económico a todos los actores", consideró Marcelo Secco, CEO de Marfrig para el Conosur y presidente de la Asociación de la Industria Frigorífica del Uruguay, entrevistado en el programa Tiempo de Cambio de radio Rural.

El industrial consideró que esta semana la faena se verá afectada entorno a 50% frente a la anterior, y que la semana próxima la baja se acentuaría aún más, teniendo en cuenta que habitualmente semana de turismo de por sí tiene una menor operativa, que se retraerá aún más sumado a las medidas sindicales y al resentimiento del consumo interno.

"Hay un grupo de empresas que no estarían siendo afectadas por las medidas", dijo Secco.

Otra fuente industrial señaló que se ha registrado un fuerte acatamiento.

Desde FOICA Cerro señalaron a Ganadería.uy que hay un alto nivel de acatamiento a la medida.

De acuerdo a un informe elaborado por la consultora APEO, las plantas involucradas en el paro de FOICA representaron el 66% de la faena nacional en lo que va del año 2020, con un promedio semana de 23.000 cabezas. De acuerdo a los datos de la consultora, las exportaciones de estas plantas venían en aumento y han representado el 73% de las exportaciones totales de carne que ha realizado Uruguay.

Uruguay solicitará a la Unión Europea postergar fecha límite para el ingreso de Cuota Hilton

02 de abril de 2020 Por primera vez en la historia Uruguay no cumplirá con la Cuota Hilton, golpeado por una fuerte retracción de la demanda europea en medio de la crisis del nuevo coronavirus. Las autoridades locales solicitarán a Europa extender el plazo de ingreso para los envíos de carne dentro de este cupo, informó el presidente del Instituto Nacional de Carnes (INAC), Fernando Mattos, entrevistado por el programa Tiempo de Cambio de radio Rural.

"En la junta de INAC se manejó la posibilidad de solicitar una postergación en la fecha límite de ingreso de carne dentro de la Cuota Hilton. Si bien Europa es muy rígida en tema de plazos y no hay muchos antecedentes, de todas maneras vamos a hacer la gestión porque entendemos que estamos bajo una situación sin precedentes", señaló.

El presidente del instituto adelantó que se harán gestiones por parte de Uruguay de forma individual, pero también se establecerán contactos con otros países para que tenga más fuerza el planteo de analizar junto a la UE la posibilidad de un corrimiento de plazos considerando que hay un bloque del consumo.

"Ojalá tengamos suerte de correr 60-90 días el vencimiento del cupo Hilton 19/20", remarcó. De no lograrse una extensión del plazo, debe estar en puerto europeo al 30 de junio.

Las industrias tenían plazo hasta el 31 de marzo para informar qué volumen de carne devolverían, en caso no poder cumplir con sus envíos de Hilton. "Sé que la gran mayoría de las empresas devolvió cupo", señaló al mismo programa Marcelo Secco, CEO de Marfrig para el Conosur y presidente de ADIFU.

Del 1 de julio de 2019 al 27 de marzo de 2020 los embarques de carne dentro de cupo Hilton totalizaron 3.909 toneladas peso producto frente a las 5.123 toneladas del mismo período del año anterior. Es decir que al momento el cumplimiento es de 61,3% frente a 80,3% en mismo periodo de 2019. El precio se mantuvo prácticamente igual si se compara un año y otro, con US\$ 10.546 la tonelada en 2019/20 frente a US\$ 10.595 en 2018/19, según datos de INAC.

Desde principios de enero hasta la fecha Uruguay ha embarcado carne a Europa por un valor superior a los US\$ 50 millones -prácticamente US\$ 30 millones correspondientes a Cuota 481- aunque no todos los envíos han generado problemas, con importadores que han honrado sus contratos. Otros, sin embargo, han renegociado los plazos, han solicitado financiación o descuentos por parte de los importadores.

Lo que hace más seria la situación es que se trata un producto mucho más perecedero, explicó Mattos, teniendo en cuenta que el mayor volumen que Uruguay exporta a Europa es carne enfriada. Un producto que tiene vencimiento y que ante la interrupción de un flujo comercial hace necesario encontrar alternativas y que ese producto pueda congelarse hasta que exista una normalización del mercado europeo.

Mattos señaló que además se están realizando gestiones de algún fondo público europeo de financiación de las operaciones. O la posibilidad de que bancos europeos privados puedan financiar estas operaciones como garantía de la mercadería, que deberá estar en depósito hasta que la situación de colocación se normalice.



El mayor volumen renegociado es de Cuota 481

Los envíos de carne dentro Cuota 481 representan el mayor volumen de carne que está bajo tela de discusión en cuanto a los planteos de renegociación, señaló Mattos. "Y a esos efectos fue que INAC envió una carta a las asociaciones más representativas de los importadores europeos haciéndoles llegar la preocupación de que no se adopten conductas abusivas aprovechándose de esta situación" sin desconocer la problemática real que está atravesando Europa, explicó.

Este miércoles 1 de abril abrió una nueva ventana de ingreso de cuota 481. Y se genera un bloqueo de colocación en Europa frente a la nueva ventana que se abre el 1 de julio, donde mucho de los ganados están bajo contrato y dentro de los corrales en este momento. "Así que tiene impacto hacia adelante", concluyó.

"Precios de compra de China están muy estables en las últimas semanas"

03/04/2020 - El Gerente de Marketing dijo que "es importante tener en cuenta que estamos en medio de la peste porcina, el quiebre más grande de la producción de carne que se dio en el mundo, y esa amenazada todavía está presente".

Después de un enero y febrero envuelto de dificultades por las políticas del gobierno chino para bajar el precio de la carne y el surgimiento del Coronavirus, la actividad en el mercado asiático "se está reacomodando" y "volviendo a la normalidad", comentó Lautaro Pérez Rocha.

Sin embargo, el Gerente de Marketing del Instituto Nacional de Carnes (INAC) contó a Rurales El País que los importadores de carne están con "mucho cautela", en especial para que "no se vuelvan a dar picos enormes de precios". Y aseguró: "No se generan especulaciones y los precios de compras en China están muy estables en las últimas seis semanas".

Los nuevos valores de importación son "muy parecidos a los alcanzados en abril y mayo del año pasado", dijo Perez Rocha y agregó: "Es importante tener en cuenta que estamos en medio de la peste porcina, el quiebre más grande de la producción de carne que se dio en el mundo, y esa amenazada todavía está presente".

Dijo que esta problemática sanitaria en China "hizo estragos" y "seguirá siendo un problema". En ese sentido contó: "Ayer una persona de China me comentaba que el precio de la carne de cerdo en el supermercado supera los US\$ 20 por kilo, un porcentaje muy por encima al normal".

Demanda. Perez Rocha comentó que el transporte y la venta de los mercados minoristas están muy cercanos a la normalidad de las operaciones. Pero hay otros sectores más golpeados, que son importantes para la carne, como los restaurantes y el catering. "En una escala del uno al diez, están en un cinco. Falta mucho para que lleguen a la normalidad", sumó.

Y explicó: "Si bien han abierto restaurantes, todavía rigen restricciones y problemas de capital de trabajo, además el consumidor no se anima a salir todo el tiempo. La evolución está siendo lenta"

Paro en industria afecta el 66% de la faena nacional

02/04/2020 - Consultora Apeo: frigoríficos son el 73% de la exportación.

La Consultora Apeo analizó la faena y los mercados de las plantas frigoríficas que se están viendo afectadas por el paro de la Federación de Obreros y Empleados de la Carne y Afines (Foica), filial Cerro. Este sector del gremio, amparándose en la emergencia sanitaria, votó un cese de la faena hasta el próximo jueves 8, mientras que Foica Ciudad Vieja, decidió seguir negociando con el gobierno, pero concurrir al trabajo.

Según Apeo, "las plantas involucradas con una faena semanal de 23 mil cabezas bovinas, representaron el 66% de la faena nacional en lo que va del año 2020".

Las exportaciones de esos frigoríficos venían en aumento y "han representado el 73% de las exportaciones totales de carne vacuna que ha realizado el Uruguay".

En cuanto a mercados, la consultora mostró que en lo que va del año, "China ha sido su principal destino con el menor valor de carne exportada, que es US\$ 4.490 por tonelada peso embarque, mientras que Europa ocupó el 13% de las exportaciones con el máximo valor US\$ 9.168 por tonelada peso embarque".

A su vez, mediante un comunicado, la Asociación Rural del Uruguay consideró que "con los protocolos sanitarios del Ministerio de Salud Pública y la responsabilidad de todos los involucrados, todas las cadenas agro alimentarias deberíamos seguir trabajando y generando los productos básicos para la buena y equilibrada alimentación de la población, tan necesaria en las circunstancias actuales".

Con esa visión, exhortó "a todos los involucrados en las cadenas agro-alimentarias a actuar con la responsabilidad que el momento exige".

La gremial es consciente que la emergencia sanitaria que está atravesando Uruguay "exige las máximas precauciones para evitar la propagación del Covid-19, cuidando la salud de todos y en ese sentido comprendemos las preocupaciones de los trabajadores de la industria de la carne". Al mismo tiempo, entiende que "debe considerarse que las cadenas alimentarias son fundamentales en una emergencia como la actual, más teniendo en cuenta la importancia de la carne en la dieta de los uruguayos y también



la trascendencia que tiene el producto en las exportaciones del país”. Por otra parte, aclara que el sector agropecuario “va a seguir trabajando para proveer a todas las cadenas agro-alimentarias, pero para poder hacerlo precisa que la industria trabaje para vender los productos y generar los recursos que le permitan afrontar los gastos de cosechas, siembras, insumos y los salarios de los trabajadores rurales”.

Desde Europa piden postergar embarques de carne y algunas cancelaciones

19 de marzo de 2020 Desde Europa piden postergar embarques de carne y algunas cancelaciones Importadores europeos están solicitando a la industria frigorífica la postergación de embarques de carne, en un mercado global convulsionado por la pandemia de coronavirus. Se han registrado algunas cancelaciones y no se descarta que pueda haber renegociación de precios, en momentos de plenos envíos de Cupo Hilton y Cuota 481.

"Europa es un tembladeral", dijo a Ganadería.uy un operador de mercado. "Todo lo que es restaurantes y hoteles murió (...) todo lo que es enfriado y está en el agua está cuestionado si se va a cumplir o no, está cuestionado, explicó.

"Está complicado y está pegando, el viento está de frente porque la ola se va moviendo, ahora está en Europa y te agarra con toda la 481 en el agua, que va toda a restaurantes y hoteles", dijo la fuente.

Marcelo Secco, CEO de Marfrig para el Conosur y presidente de la Asociación de la Industria Frigorífica del Uruguay, sostuvo que la gran mayoría de los importadores europeos están solicitando no cargar, no ponerlos en el agua, y "en el menor de los casos hay cancelaciones", señaló al programa Tiempo de Cambio de radio Rural.

La semana pasada clientes europeos "solicitaron que se les liberara la mercadería embarcada -hay 481 y Hilton embarcado- pidiendo que liberaran los documentos, es decir, levantar la mercadería en destino, sin pagar al banco ni a nosotros dado que no hay nadie en los restaurantes", dijo al mismo programa Daniel Belerati, presidente de la Cámara de la Industria Frigorífica. Otros pidieron que se retrasen los embarques que están comprometidos, agregó.

Para representante industrial la situación actual es más compleja que la enfrentada por la cadena cárnica durante la crisis de la aftosa.

La ministra de Economía, Azucena Arbeleche, estuvo en contacto con la industria frigorífica para informarle cuál era la situación desde el punto de vista sanitario y también desde el punto de vista económico, contó Belerati.

En Ministerio de Trabajo, por su parte, suspendió las reuniones de consejo de salarios, en un principio hasta luego de semana de turismo.

Las cuadrillas kosher se retiraron completamente en los últimos días, ante la problemática generada por la pandemia de COVID-19.

Exportaciones de carne vacuna a China caen 40% pero a un precio superior al de un año atrás

19 de marzo de 2020 Exportaciones de carne vacuna a China caen 40% pero a un precio superior al de un año atrás

Con Europa paralizada, China es la esperanza de que las consecuencias del Coronavirus impacten lo menos posible en la economía uruguaya. El comercio con China se está reactivando aunque está lejos de lo que era en el último trimestre de 2019.

Daniel Castiglioni, director de Castitrading dijo a Tiempo de Cambio de radio Rural que “la demanda y la concreción de negocios está, se reactivó el consumo y por ende los negocios con China a pesar de que los stocks de carne permanecen altos. La pelea está en los precios”.

Del 1 de enero al 14 de marzo se exportaron 31.587 toneladas peso canal a China, una caída de casi 39,6% respecto a las 52.266 toneladas del mismo período de 2019. En ese período ingresaron US\$ 136 millones, un 30% menos que los US\$ 195 millones de un año atrás.

El precio de exportación de la carne vacuna a China cayó bruscamente respecto al pico de noviembre del 2019 pero se mantiene por encima de un año atrás según se desprende de las solicitudes de exportación de Aduanas.

En lo que va del año China compró la carne a un precio promedio de US\$ 4.458 la tonelada peso embarque, 7% por encima que los US\$ 4.156 del mismo momento del año pasado pero 22% menos que el pico de US\$ 5.541 de diciembre de 2019.

“Hoy en día los precios de exportación de la carne vacuna a China están entre US\$ 100 y US\$ 200 por encima que un año atrás –previo al despegue de precios que se dio luego de la feria SIAL–”, dijo Castiglioni.

“China la veo a paso lento comprando algunas cosas, no todo, y pagando. Ojalá me equivoque, pero me daría pavor que se conviertan rápidamente en los únicos que compran, se agrave todo el resto y dependamos de ellos, y ellos sabiendo que son los únicos. Da la sensación que vamos rumbo a eso. Hoy compran cortes a precios baratos y no están comprando menudencias. Con el dólar alto el mercado local no es mucha opción”, explicó un operador del mercado.



Consultora Apeo Exportación y desbalance de la cadena cárnica

26/03/2020 - En 2020, China ha disminuido el volumen (30%) y monto (26%) de compra, pero con una tendencia al alza que ya se ubica en valores similares a la mitad del 2019.

En el acumulado de las primeras 12 semanas del año observamos que la facturación de las exportaciones se ha reducido 6% respecto a igual período del 2019, a pesar de haber disminuido en volumen un 17%. Esto se debe a un aumento del valor de la tonelada peso embarque que pasó de 5.005 USD/ton a 5.642 USD/ton (+13%) para el mismo período 2019 y 2020, respectivamente. Si analizamos el caso de China, comprador del 53% de nuestra carne en lo que va de este año, ha disminuido el volumen un 30% y el monto un 26%, pero con una tendencia al alza que ya se ubica en estas últimas semanas en valores similares a la mitad del año 2019. Por otro lado, el acumulado de este año tiene intacto el negocio de las cuotas con Europa, ya que por haber sido la entrega en la segunda quincena de febrero aún no notamos el impacto que tendrá la disminución de este mercado.

Para analizar el comportamiento evolutivo de las exportaciones utilizamos la media móvil de 3 semanas para el volumen, monto y precio por tonelada peso embarque. En las primeras semanas de este año, a causa de la crisis en China, habíamos llegado a un piso que rápidamente fue creciendo hasta llegar en la semana pasada (media móvil 3 semanas) a un volumen entorno de las 7 mil toneladas y un monto cercano a los 40 millones de dólares, que iguala los mejores momentos del año 2019. El precio actual 5.535 USD/tonelada peso embarque ha caído 13% respecto al máximo ocurrido en diciembre del año pasado, y se encuentra en valores similares a la mitad de dicho año cuando en ese entonces éramos más optimistas.

Hasta hoy nuestras exportaciones han tenido a una débil China y una fuerte Europa. De aquí para adelante parecería ser que se invierte el orden, ya que el gigante asiático está recomponiendo sus compras y el viejo continente seguramente, por estar en el foco de la salud humana, las mermará sensiblemente. Perder transitoriamente mercado europeo implica dejar de lado los nichos de la cuota 481 y Hilton, que en promedio, sobre fin del 2019, vendían sus cortes a 9.800 USD/tonelada peso embarque y eran entorno al 10% de nuestras exportaciones. La próxima faena para este destino de los ganados de corral que será en mayo, se encuentra hoy con los animales en los feed lot y con contratos realizados previo a la crisis actual, por lo tanto serán los dueños de los corrales y los frigoríficos quienes tengan el desafío de encontrar la solución a este problema. En contrapartida, los productores que están preparando sus animales para venderlos recriados en mayo u agosto a dichos corrales son los que hoy tienen la gran incertidumbre si tendrán mercado y, si existiera, cuál sería el precio. En caso de no venderlos repercutirá en el mercado de reposición, ya que sería menos demanda por terneros y, a su vez, se les generaría un desafío productivo a nivel de carga invernal.

El momento que estamos atravesando marca por primera vez en muchos años un precio del novillo gordo que está en marzo -0.07 USD/kg 4ta balanza por debajo de las relaciones históricas con el valor de la carne exportada (última semana -0.28 USD/kg 4ta balanza), lo que indica que la demanda se ha reducido sensiblemente respecto a la oferta. Tener un valor por debajo de las relaciones históricas en un contexto interno que sería alcista en condiciones normales como lo es el menor stock invernable, el récord de pasturas intensivas y una capacidad de corral muy buena, marcarían la dimensión del problema externo que estamos atravesando, ya que el año pasado en las mismas condiciones y con una demanda externa fuerte se pagó +0.31 USD/kg 4ta balanza por encima de las relaciones históricas. En lo que va de este año la relación faena/exportación se ha incrementado fuertemente, lo que indicaría un posible alto stock de carnes en cámaras aún sin vender. También debemos tener presente que la industria hace 4 años que viene con números negativos en sus resultados, que se les ha generado a inicio del 2020 un gran problema financiero con la modificación de los negocios pactados a China, que está mejorando la competitividad de nuestros vecinos, que tal vez no podamos faenar por restricciones del coronavirus (faena y logística) al ritmo deseado, etc, son todos aspectos que marcan el gran desafío que tendrán de aquí para adelante.

En cuanto a la reposición, el precio del ternero parece no haberse enterado de la bajada del novillo gordo, cuando históricamente la correlación (con efectos de causalidad) ha sido del 88% entre ellos. Hoy el ternero se ha pagado +0.12 USD/kg, los momentos en los que los invernadores/recriadores se han comportado así fue cuando se recompuso el stock vacuno pos crisis 2008/09 (período 2010 al 2013) y cuando la exportación en pie estuvo operando fuertemente (período 2015-2017). Es verdad que la capacidad de carga de los sistemas por el récord en pasturas intensivas ha crecido, pero el año pasado también la teníamos y seguramente con menor oferta de terneros por la sequía del 2018 no ocurrió lo que está pasando este año. Posicionarse en negocios largos en estos contextos siempre es válido pero el mercado, a pesar de ello, ha mostrado que el precio del ternero se fija en función de lo que vale el novillo gordo en ese momento y no en función de una expectativa de los próximos 18, 24 o 30 meses.

Por último, queremos compartir una reflexión en un momento tan complejo como el que estamos atravesando, no sólo como país sino como humanidad. Cuando se toca la salud nos exponemos al



máximo nivel de vulnerabilidad posible. Esta crisis pasará y dejará sus consecuencias y sus aprendizajes. Uruguay es un pequeño gran país que produce alimentos, probablemente el mundo exija y maximice las garantías en la calidad de lo que consumimos, allí tenemos un desafío, una oportunidad. Si somos serios y solidarios como sociedad, cuidándonos como nos dicen y nos va bien en el control de esta pandemia, no sólo lograremos lo que todos hoy queremos sino que también le estaremos mostrando al mundo que tuvimos éxito y eso generará confianza. Y confianza es lo que van a exigir cada vez más los consumidores de alimentos en un futuro no muy lejano. Depende de nosotros.

Segundo ajuste mensual de la carne bovina en el abasto

18/03/2020 Carniceros sostienen que el consumo se retrajo.

La carne vacuna con y sin hueso que se vende en el abasto volvió a subir. En la segunda suba mensual, los cortes con hueso se pagan \$ 10 por kilo más caros y dependiendo del frigorífico, las pulpas sin hueso en cajas, subieron entre \$ 15 y \$ 20 por kilo. La suba responde al aumento del dólar y la incertidumbre que genera el coronavirus sobre esta moneda con la que la industria paga el ganado que faena.

La mayoría de los frigoríficos ya subieron, mientras que otros ajustarán las tarifas en las próximas horas. “El mercado está raro”, afirmó a El País el vicepresidente de la Unión Vendedores de Carne (UVC), Hebert Falero. A nivel de los comercios “la demanda cayó notoriamente” y según Falero, el cierre de las escuelas también perjudicó a las carnicerías, pues son clientes habituales. “Al entregar bandejas ya no elaboran comida. Esas elaboraciones las hacen las empresas de catering y en esos casos, compran la carne directamente a los frigoríficos”, explicó.

El incremento de la carne en el abasto alcanza también a las carnes importadas, en su mayoría desde Brasil, donde el dólar también está subiendo y a eso se suma una baja en la oferta, con un mercado local que se mantiene activo y demandante.

El Ing. Agr. Fernando Mattos Costa presidente de INAC

16/03/2020 - Lo designó el Poder Ejecutivo y asumirá funciones el próximo lunes 23.

El Ing. Agr. Fernando Mattos Costa fue designado por el Poder Ejecutivo como presidente del Instituto Nacional de Carnes (INAC).

La resolución firmada por el presidente Luis Lacalle Pou, establece que Mattos fue propuesto por el Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca para ocupar dicho cargo en representación del Poder Ejecutivo.

El Ing. Mattos, es productor agropecuario en Cerro Largo y Tacuarembó.

A nivel gremial, fue presidente de la Sociedad Criadores de Braford y Cebú y presidente de la Asociación Rural del Uruguay, en representación de la cual actuó como delegado en INAC de 1997 al 2005.

Ha realizado actividades vinculadas al comercio de carnes, ocupando cargos de gerencia en Porto Alegre, Brasil. También ha sido jurado de razas vacunas en diversas exposiciones de la región y ha brindado conferencias en distintos países del mundo.

Fue presidente de la Fundación Pro Cría, es integrante del Consejo de administración de la Fundación UPM y actual columnista en El País.

PARAGUAY

Un frigorífico detiene sus operaciones 15 días por Coronavirus

15/03/2020 Medida responde a la resolución del Ministerio de Salud de evitar concentración masiva de personas.

El presidente de Frigorífico Guaraní, Luis Pettengill, confirmó que a partir de hoy lunes detienen sus actividades en la planta durante 15 días, a raíz de las medidas anunciadas por el Ministerio de Salud que buscan evitar la propagación del Coronavirus.

El empresario contó al diario 5 Días que en el frigorífico “trabajan alrededor de 400 personas” y “ellos vienen en su mayoría desde el transporte público y trabajan en un espacio reducido”, de tal modo “decidimos parar las actividades”.

Además, Pettengill aseguró que esta medida debería ser imitada en todas las industrias, o por lo menos ubicadas en Asunción o el Gran Asunción. Señaló que “la prioridad es mantener la salud de los funcionarios y los clientes”.

Stock bovino de Paraguay aumentó 1,2% y se acercó a 14 millones de cabezas

30/03/2020 - La producción ganadera creció en las dos regiones del país, pero alertó por la baja producción de novillos.



El primero de los dos periodos de vacunación contra la fiebre aftosa finalizó con un crecimiento del 1,2% hato ganadero de Paraguay. Un total de 141.844 propietarios inmunizaron 13.972.516 bovinos, 170.523 cabezas más en comparación con el periodo del año pasado.

El presidente del Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Salud Animal (Senacsa) de Paraguay, José Carlos Martín, señaló que la vacunación contra la fiebre aftosa resultó un “éxito total” y los “números finales confirmaron los pronósticos realizados previo al inicio del periodo”.

Martín destacó a Valor Agro el crecimiento del rodeo en las dos regiones productivas del país, a diferencia del año pasado que bajó significativamente en la región oriental. “De las 170.000 cabezas que aumentaron en 2020, el 75% del crecimiento responde a la región occidental y el restante a la oriental”, detalló.

Dentro de la información a analizar, el Presidente del Senacsa resaltó la mayor producción de terneros, con 158.000 cabezas más. “El año pasado marcamos 2,6 millones de terneros carimbo 0, un incremento del 5% que se traduce a una mejora en la marcación (índice relación vaca-ternero)”.

En machos, los toros aumentaron 26.950 cabezas, de 1.297.239 animales en 2019 a 1.324.189 en 2020. Sin embargo, los novillos bajaron en 82.252 reses, de 909.046 a 826.794 reses. Claramente son datos que no pasan desapercibidos, más aún si se contempla que entre 2018 y 2019 el stock de novillos ya había descendido en aproximadamente 85.000 cabezas.

“No es una buena señal para ser un país productor de carne”, destacó el Presidente del Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Salud Animal. Y agregó: “Los ganaderos están dejando de producir novillos y se están dedicando más a la producción de toros, si seguimos con estos números nos vamos a quedar con un rodeo muy acotado de novillos”.

Es de orden que el Senacsa alarme sobre la caída porque “estamos atentando contra la producción de carne de calidad”, dijo Martín y destacó: “Más que nunca hay que llamar a la unidad entre el sector productivo e industrial para reflexionar y tomar medidas importantes dentro de un marco normativo, que podría ser el Instituto Paraguayo de la Carne”.

El Presidente del Senacsa explicó que la disminución de los novillos y el aumento de los toros responde a la “no diferenciación entre producir un animal entero y uno castrado”. Es claro que “el toro tiene una mejor performance en los campos por la presencia de testosterona, pero la carne pierde sabor, color y textura, a diferencia del novillo”. Y subrayó: “En los mejores mercados del mundo en la compra de carne bovina se habla de la producción de machos castrados”.

UNIÓN EUROPEA

COVID-19 acuerdan medidas económicas

The Eurogroup met via videoconference yesterday to discuss a coordinated policy response to help contain the COVID-19 outbreak and mitigate its negative socio-economic effects. The Eurogroup agreed that an immediate, ambitious and co-ordinated policy response is needed. They have put together a first set of national and European measures to be taken while setting a framework for further actions to respond to developments and to support the economic recovery. The Commission welcomes that the Eurogroup's determination to do whatever it takes to effectively address the current challenges and to restore confidence and support a rapid recovery. Executive Vice-Presidents Valdis Dombrovskis and Margrethe Vestager, together with Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni, presented the Commission's proposals to mitigate the negative socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak. These proposals, which include amongst other points, using the full flexibility of our State-aid and fiscal frameworks, mobilising the EU budget to allow the EIB Group to provide short-term liquidity to SMEs, and directing €37 billion to the fight COVID-19 under the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative, were welcomed by the Eurogroup. Commissioner Gentiloni's statement at the press conference which followed the Eurogroup is available here.

Ganaderos irlandeses solicitaron que no ingresen carnes bovinas de terceros países.

01 April 2020 The Irish Farmers' Association has submitted a letter to the Government and European Commission urging a halt in beef exports from outside Europe.

According to the report, the move will support farmers in European countries as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

The submission outlines a number of measures that would protect the livelihoods of Irish beef and dairy farmers as Europe contends with the coronavirus. Since both sectors are export-driven, widespread closures of restaurant and food establishments have hit the industry hard. Retail sales have only been able to make up for some of the losses, as other EU countries have relied on domestic suppliers to fill the gap.



Suggestions to strengthen the industry include subsidies for farmers and a pan-European strategy to encourage sales of EU beef products. Similar measures were suggested for Ireland's dairy industry, which has been impacted by the slowdown in exports.

"The EU must be mindful of the importance of the agriculture and food sector in providing food security to EU citizens in the current crisis," the report states.

"While some more domestically-oriented markets have seen increased retail sales at least partially offset the losses, this is not the case for the mainly export-oriented Irish agri-food sector."

IFA president Tim Cullinane commented, "we are facing massive challenges across all sectors, but the beef market is now in turmoil. We need significant measures urgently."

ESTADOS UNIDOS

Precios a futuro se derrumban

03 April 2020 US cattle futures tumbled as concerns mount over skyrocketing unemployment and a possible recession as the coronavirus pandemic continues.

According to reporting from Reuters, concerns over the pandemic triggered widespread liquidation across the beleaguered livestock markets.

Both live and feeder cattle dropped by their daily trading limits for a second session, sending most live cattle contracts to new life-of-contract lows.

Beef prices have been falling after a recent surge that was fuelled by consumer stockpiling as several US states issued stay-at-home orders and closed restaurants to stem the tide of coronavirus infections.

Cash cattle prices have also faded as packers are slowing meat output to closely match weaker demand, and that is backing up supplies of market-ready animals.

"We pulled all this demand forward... Now, the pipeline's full and not moving like it was," said Matthew Wiegand, commodity broker for FuturesOne.

Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) April live cattle fell to 92.825 cents per pound, while actively traded June futures finished at 83.075 cents, both down by their expanded 4.5-cent daily limit.

May feeder cattle futures ended at 111.650 cents a pound, one of five contracts that ended down the expanded daily limit of 6.75 cents.

The trading limits for the commodities will remain at their expanded levels of 4.5 cents on Friday for live cattle and 6.75 cents for feeders.

The choice boxed beef cutout dropped to \$232.64 per cwt, down \$20.93 from a week ago. Cash cattle at southern US Plains feed lot markets traded \$8 per cwt lower this week, according to USDA data.

NCBA fija posición ante la crisis del COVID 19

March 13, 2020 There is a great deal of uncertainty about the ongoing impact of Coronavirus on the beef industry and the United States as a whole. At this time, it's impossible to measure the full effects of the virus or determine how it may continue to unfold. Although the full beef supply chain is being challenged by the outbreak, all segments of the industry are working closely together and must continue to do so. The current uncertainty facing beef producers is shared by all of agriculture and every American. By working together, we will overcome these obstacles.

As Coronavirus has spread in the United States, NCBA has been in daily communication with participants from every sector of the beef supply chain. We're working closely with cow-calf producers, stocker operators and feedlots. We're also communicating regularly with packing sector participants, restaurant and retail operations. Every one of these operations is facing unique challenges and many shared burdens. As we continue to work through this crisis, we must do everything in our power to safeguard every sector of the business from disruption while ensuring cattle and beef continue to move in an orderly manner.

In addition to working within the beef community, NCBA is working closely with Congress, USDA and many other regulatory agencies to remove possible barriers to beef production. Our work in Washington, D.C., will help keep the supply chain full and create the necessary food security required by consumers through the entirety of this event. Consumer demand for beef remains strong, and producers across the industry remain ready to provide the safe, delicious, high-quality protein that's required and desired around the globe.

NCBA will continue to work with our members and partners throughout the beef supply chain to facilitate communication. By working together, every segment of the beef community can serve a role in returning the industry to normalcy as quickly as possible.

Covid-19 preocupación por el cierre de la frontera con Canadá

March 18, 2020 For our complete coverage of the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic as well as interactive maps and graphs visit AgWeb.com/coronavirus.



Farmers and ranchers are worried about the impact of coronavirus on their operations according to the latest Farm Journal Pulse Poll with 79% expressing concern. Out of more than 1,200 respondents, 45% said they are very concerned that the outbreak will impact the operation of their farm or ranch, 34% were somewhat concerned. Only 15% said they were not concerned about the impact on their operation. President Donald Trump tweeted his intent to close the border between the U.S. and Canada on Wednesday. He later clarified that that closure will only impact "non-essential" travel and that trade between the two nations will continue.

COVID-19 – prevén fuerte incremento en los requerimientos para alimentar necesitados

April 3, 2020 10:42 AM Panic buying due to COVID-19 concerns led to empty shelves in the meat department at Target in Olathe, Kan., on March 19, 2020. (Katie James)

The nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization will be short \$1.4 billion in resources over the next six months. Feeding America estimates COVID-19 related issues have led to a 30% increase to the baseline six-month operating cost for its 200 member foodbanks in the U.S.

"The people we serve and the charitable food system in the United States are facing a 'perfect storm,' with surges in demand, declines in food donations and volunteers, and disruptions to normal operating procedures as a result of the COVID-19 crisis," said Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America in a recent news release. "It is all of our neighbors who now, more than ever, need help putting food on their tables."

Closed schools, rapidly rising unemployment (it hit an all-time high enrollment this week) and rising poverty due to stay-at-home orders and quarantine will have a greater impact on those already at risk of food insecurity. Feeding America research indicated an additional 17.1 million people will experience food insecurity—a 46% jump.

Making matters worse, fewer people are donating food. Early predictions show a 60% decline in the Feeding America workforce who typically package and deliver food. Many of these volunteers are senior citizens, school groups and corporate groups.

Feeding America surveyed 99% of their food bank network to assemble these predictions.

"We are distributing an additional 250,000 pounds of food per week to support five local urban and suburban school districts that are closed," said Heather Schlesinger of the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

"We've stopped using volunteers inside our building—we typically use close to 600 per week. We have spent more than \$500,000 in the last seven days on food versus a typical week of less than \$50,000."

AUSTRALIA

Exportaciones Marzo 2020: importante recuperación en CHINA y caída en EE.UU.

Jon Condon, April 3, 2020

THERE was a modest recovery in beef exports to China in March, while shipments to the US declined sharply, monthly export figures released by the Department of Agriculture this morning showed.

Overall, Australian beef exports to all markets varied little from the month before, despite a sharp decline in the rate of slaughter.

Eastern states beef kills averaged around 122,000 head during March, versus 131,000 head in February (-7pc), yet exports last month at 93,954 head were up 1pc on February.

Much of the COVID-19 market challenges that emerged during the back half of March evidently came too late to have a significant impact on trade figures, but might be better reflected at the end of this month.

March's export shipments were down sharply on the same period last year, however, when exports at 102,000t were being driven hard by drought turnoff of livestock, and growing Chinese demand.

Japan easily topped Australia's exports by volume last month, pushing well past China for the second consecutive month. Shipments totalled 26,751t for the month, a 13pc rise on February, and 14pc higher than March last year.

Calendar year to date, Japan has taken almost 69,000t, versus 65,500t for the same period last year.

South Korea, also, appears to be escaping the worst of the effects of COVID-19, taking just over 13,000t of Australian beef in March, up marginally on February, but about 1000t lower than March last year. Year to date shipments have passed 38,000t, almost the same as last year.

Exports to China last month came off the enormous highs seen towards the end of 2019 leading into Chinese New Year in January, reaching 18,328t in March, despite the onerous impacts of COVID-19.

March trade was up almost 10pc on the previous month, but was behind by 11pc compared with March last year. Calendar year to date shipments have reached just over 58,000t, compared with 52,000t for the same period last year. The sharp rise in China shipments last year did not really kick in until around June, however.



Exports to the United States last month were sharply lower, at 17,182 tonnes, down 12pc on February. Some of this may be explained by the sharp drop in food service activity during March, including popular burger chains where much of Australia's lean frozen trim is utilised. Some large US restaurant chains early last week reported sales down 60pc or more, and conditions have worsened since then.

In contrast, retail sales of ground beef are booming in the US due to Covid-19 concerns, mirroring similar consumer stockpiling trends seen in Australia. Relatively little Australian trimmings are used in US retail ground beef trade, which is mostly fresh domestic trimmings.

In sharp contrast, this time last year when Australia was killing cows at a furious rate as part of herd liquidation, the US took almost 24,400t of Australian beef for March – representing a 30pc decline, year-on-year.

For the calendar year to date, exports to the US are currently at 52,366t, down almost 10pc on the same three months in 2019.

In other markets, trade to the Middle East has been impacted by airfreight access difficulties, with volume slipping by 10pc to 2360t. Trade to Indonesia reached 5791t, much the same as February, but 13pc higher than March last year.

The European Union markets took just 616t last month – less than half the month before, or the month of March last year.

Subsidian tarifas aéreas para la exportación de productos agropecuarios

01 April 2020 On 31 March, Australia's government said it will spend A\$110 million (\$67.4 million) to subsidise air freight for exports of agricultural products like beef and dairy after flight disruptions due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

According to reporting from Reuters, nearly 90 percent of Australian air freight is transported in planes carrying tourists. However, since dozens of countries have closed their borders to curb the spread of the coronavirus, many Australian exporters haven't been able to move their products.

To jumpstart sales, the government said it will subsidise flights to Japan, Hong Kong, China, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. These markets usually pay a premium for Australian products like Wagyu beef and dairy.

"By getting flights off the ground, full of Australian produce, we're supporting our farmers and fishers who have been hit hard by this crisis," Australia's Minister for Trade Simon Birmingham said in an emailed statement.

The logistics of the freight flights are still being worked out, but Birmingham said many of the planes will return to Australia carrying medical supplies.

The funding will come from Australia's first economic stimulus package in response to the coronavirus outbreak that included A\$1 billion for regional communities hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak.

Australia's agriculture sector, one of the nation's biggest exporters with shipments worth about A\$35 billion a year, said the funding would be critical in keep the industry afloat.

Frigoríficos Realizan esfuerzos para sostener el nivel de actividad

James Nason, March 18, 2020 AUSTRALIAN meat processors are working to minimise the risk of abattoirs being forced to close in the event of one or more employees testing positive to COVID-19.

Protecting human health and minimising risks to workers remains the industry's primary focus as rates of coronavirus infections around Australia rise, meat industry groups have told Beef Central.

At the same time potential impacts to livestock markets in the event of one or more abattoirs being forced to close if employees test positive to COVID-19 are also raising industry concerns.

Beef Central touched on the possibility in this article published yesterday, quoting analyst, Simon Quilty.

Australian Meat Industry Council CEO Patrick Hutchinson told Beef Central the industry is closely following advice from the Federal Government and the Chief Medical Officer.

Any abattoir staff member who did test positive would require immediate isolation, as would any fellow employees with whom they had come into contact, and they would also require testing as quickly as possible.

For this reason Mr Hutchinson stressed it was critically important that Governments ensure adequate supplies of testing kits are available in rural and regional areas.

"The Government has got to be very mindful about ensuring rural and regional Australia, as anywhere else, has as many test kits as possible to ensure that facilities like processing plants providing meat throughout Australia are able to test effectively and quickly if required," he said.

"The other thing that serves us well is that obviously as an industry we are world leaders in micro-biological management and sanitisation, and at the end of every shift there is obviously a complete washdown.

"We're well in front to be able to meet any concerns that are being raised."

Mr Hutchinson said AMIC has been in touch with State and Federal Government this week, and it was clear from those discussions that red meat is viewed and recognised as an essential service. He said it



was also well understood that if coronavirus was to appear in any part of the supply chain, the need to minimise any disruptions or closures was well understood.

US cattle groups share concerns

Cattle industry groups have expressed similar concerns in the United States, with the US Cattlemen's Association this week urging the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop a plan to keep packing plants up and running as a top priority.

"The first thing we need to do is calm the markets down and put some kind of certainty in that the plants will run...in case an employee or employees get coronavirus, the last thing the industry needs at this present time is another plant to be closed," USCA board member and Nebraska cattle feeder Lee Reichmuth told US media this week.

"So we've reached out to USDA to look at that and kind of come up with a game plan if that were to happen and how they would navigate through that."

In a statement overnight the USDA sought to reassure the US industry it will keep packing plants staffed with federal inspectors and its agencies will use "their authority and all administrative means and flexibilities to address staffing considerations".

US market analyst Steiner Consulting this week said a common line of speculation among US futures traders was the potential impact that coronavirus could have on US meat production.

"The US government has been rather slow in testing for the disease and there is a fear it could soon blow up by growing geometrically," Steiner said in its weekly imported beef market report.

"Could this result in major packing plants being closed? If so, what would this do both to the supply of beef going from the packer to the consumer (lower production, thus higher prices) and from the producer to the packer (lower production, thus lower prices)."

"At this point this remains in the realm of speculation, but it was one more reason for the selling pressure that developed," Steiner said.

"At this time June US fed cattle prices are trading under \$90/cwt, the lowest in over a decade and about 30pc lower than where summer futures were trading in early January. Such prices would indicate that market participant now think the US economy is headed for a sharp contraction. The potential for supply disruptions makes price discovery even more difficult to realise," it warned.

Business excluded from large gathering restrictions

Some of Australia's largest meatworks employ more than 500 people in single shifts.

However current restrictions on non-essential gatherings of greater than 500, introduced by the Federal Government on Monday, do not include workplaces.

As meat runs off supermarket shelves amid panic buying and stockpiling by consumers, the Australian Meat Industry Council is also working to reassure consumers that there is no need to panic about the supply of meat.

"What is absolutely beneficial for us as industry is because we are such a tight knit group, processor through to wholesaler through to retailer, be they major retailer or our independent retail butchers, we're able to manage the requirements of product very effectively," Mr Hutchinson said.

"There is no need to be panicking, we have those systems under control and can move product very effectively to meet spikes in demand.

"That is why we exist, to provide meat."

Mr Hutchinson said AMIC has been tackling a vast array of different business issues with regards to management within COVID-19 and product supply.

"We're effectively taking a piece by piece approach so we can effectively answer questions, provide information to Governments and ensure that product is moving through the system effectively well."

Panic meat sales speak volumes

In strong contrast to the media hype promoting plant-based alternatives, the panic buying of mince and other meat products in recent weeks has provided the clearest indication possible of how strong consumer support for meat remains, Mr Hutchinson said.

"Nothing is going to tell you that more than seeing kilometre-long lines of people waiting in butcher shops and going up to people delivering meat trying to buy it off the back of a truck, and the scenario of Coles and Woolies rationing beef mince," he said.

"That is showing you, and it should be a big thing for all of the concerned cockies out there who are worried about alternative proteins, that shows you a community in action.

"If that is not a barometer of what people think of our product then I don't know what is."

Red meat councils meet to discuss COVID-19 impact

Meanwhile red meat industry peak councils and RDCs held a virtual roundtable meeting yesterday to discuss ongoing COVID-19 implications to the industry.



A summary emailed by the Red Meat Advisory Council today said the industry is prioritising efforts to minimise risks to staff and customers, and to assist business continuity.

Yesterday's roundtable called for availability of testing to increase significantly to expedite treatment and containment and eliminate unnecessary isolation and allow employees to return to the workforce.

It also called on the Council of Australian Governments to take immediate measures to protect red meat industry businesses, including waiving fees and charges, deferring non-essential regulatory reviews, and implementing an immediate payroll tax holiday as part of a broader stimulus.

The Red Meat 2030 partners said they will now hold an industry roundtable on a weekly or as-needed basis as more information on the COVID-19 public health response becomes available.

NUEVA ZELANDA: establecen protocolos COVID 19

Fonte: Rural News, traduzida e adaptada pela Equipe BeefPoint. This post was last modified on 31 de março de 2020 11:51

As empresas de carne da Nova Zelândia criaram agora um conjunto de protocolos que permitirão que os animais sejam abatidos e processados durante o bloqueio do COVID-19.

Eles também atendem às diretrizes estabelecidas pelo governo em relação à segurança dos trabalhadores nas fábricas de processamento de carne.

O diretor executivo da Meat Industry Association, Tim Ritchie, disse ao Rural News que sua organização e o MPI – junto com outros – estão trabalhando no desenvolvimento das diretrizes há vários dias.

Ritchie disse que os sindicatos foram mantidos informados e as empresas de carne trabalharam em colaboração para desenvolver esses novos protocolos.

No entanto, ele alerta os produtores que o processamento levará muito mais tempo – dada a necessidade de atender aos novos requisitos de espaço entre os trabalhadores e assim por diante.

Ritchie disse que isso pode afetar mais as cadeias de ovinos por causa dos requisitos de distanciamento. Ele diz que isso pode atrasar o processamento em até 30% ou mais em alguns casos.

Atrasos provavelmente variam entre as plantas. Ele diz que as empresas de carnes também concordaram que, se houver algum problema em certas fábricas, outras vão assumir a folga.

Ritchie disse que os funcionários dos frigoríficos também foram informados sobre como lidar com a situação e receberam conselhos sobre como permanecer em segurança durante a crise atual.

EMPRESARIAS

JBS y Minerva suspendieron actividad en el mes de marzo

Fonte: Portal DBO. This post was last modified on 18 de março de 2020 13:31

Há cerca de uma semana, parte da indústria frigorífica começou a sinalizar que poderia suspender o abate de bovinos, em função da disseminação do novo coronavírus (Covid-19). Desde segunda, 16 de março, o quadro ficou mais claro com a JBS determinando a suspensão dos abates nas unidades de Alta Floresta e Juína, em Mato Grosso, e na unidade de Nova Andradina, em Mato Grosso do Sul.

A Minerva Foods anunciou na tarde de hoje, 17 de março, que estarão em férias coletivas funcionários de quatro unidades: Janaúba (MG) e José Bonifácio (SP) e duas em Mato Grosso, uma em Mirassol D'Oeste e outra em Paranatinga.

Das gigantes do setor, apenas a Marfrig Global Foods não se manifestou, mas tudo indica que pode ser questão de dias tomar a mesma decisão de suas concorrentes JBS e Minerva.

Para Alcides Torres, diretor da Scot Consultoria, as empresas estão tomando medidas de precaução, por parâmetros do que já ocorreu em outros países. Com a população recolhida em suas casas, em um primeiro momento a tendência é cair a quantidade de carne vendida ao consumidor. “Além disso, por causa da economia deprimida, o consumo já não é dos melhores, é comedido”, afirma Torres. “O Brasil ainda não saiu da crise.”

O fato é que há muitas incertezas no mercado para os próximos dias. Lygia Pimentel, da consultoria Agrifatto, diz que o atual momento é de uma situação altamente arriscada. “Absolutamente ninguém previu o que está ocorrendo, tanto que o mundo está em choque”, afirma.

De acordo com Lygia, da Agrifatto:

“Temos menos demanda por carne, as plantas começam a fechar, há menos demanda por boi também. Hoje, há uma situação de safra e o boi pode permanecer no pasto sem grande prejuízo, mas não significa que não vá afetar os preços.

De maneira muito objetiva, temos hoje cotações que são um escândalo, uma ofensa em relação ao que havia na semana passada, de R\$ 200. Estão oferecendo R\$ 180 a R\$ 190 a arroba, em São Paulo. Há preços tão baixos que as pessoas não querem fazer negócio. Isso significa um mercado sem referência.



Num segundo momento, quando o mercado se ajustar, como as escalas estão curtas, acho que o preço do boi pode voltar a se firmar. Com escalas curtas, tendo enxugado o volume de carne no varejo, a partir desse momento o boi pode subir. Porque se a quantidade de doentes no País aumentar, numa curva mais achatada, o que significa um tempo longo de um ciclo mais atenuado da doença – como os infectologistas estão prevendo – o consumidor tende a fazer estoque de alimento em casa. Congelar uma carne, por exemplo.”

Marfrig detuvo operaciones en Salto (Uruguay) por emergencia sanitaria

16/03/2020 - La medida se aplica en Frigorífico La Caballada.

La multinacional brasileña Marfrig determinó frenar las actividades en Frigorífico La Caballada en Salto, con motivos de la emergencia sanitaria declarada en el país.

En un comunicado expresa: “Salto se está viendo afectado por el COVID-19 y tenemos algunos casos sospechosos en planta, que si bien no están confirmados, generan incertidumbre. Por estas razones, hemos decidido, en principio, detener la actividad por una semana”.

Marfrig explica que desde hoy martes se detiene la faena y desosado trabajará hasta mañana miércoles. “Se vaciarán todos los túneles de congelado y se seguirá cargando (con los cuidados recomendados por el MTSS y MSP y controles diarios)”.

La compañía opera en Uruguay con cuatro plantas frigoríficas en el país, hasta el momento solo detiene operaciones en Salto.

Cambios en Marfrig: Miguel Gularte liderará operaciones en América Latina

18/03/2020 - La compañía eliminó el cargo de consejero delegado a nivel global.

Marfrig Global Foods, uno de los principales operadores del sector vacuno a nivel mundial, está reordenando su gestión a nivel mundial.

Para conseguir esa meta, el grupo eliminó el cargo de consejero delegado a nivel global, que ocupaba hasta ahora Eduardo Miron y para ello ha creado dos direcciones conjuntas que rendirán cuentas ante el presidente de la compañía, Marcos Molina, según lo publicado por el portal Eurocarne.

En el caso de las operaciones de América Latina, estarán dirigidas por Miguel Gularte mientras que las actividades en Norteamérica estarán bajo el mandato de Tim Klein.

Otra de las acciones que está llevando a cabo la compañía es la recolocación de su deuda bajo la administración de su división estadounidense National Beef.

Acciones. A su vez, la compañía anunció que el Consejo de Administración de la empresa aprobó el uso de reservas de capital para la adquisición en una única operación o en una serie de operaciones de hasta 5.910.145 acciones ordinarias nominativas de la compañía, según destacó Faxcarne.

Esa cantidad representa 0,83% del total de acciones y 1,54% del total de acciones en circulación. La adquisición se realizará a precio de mercado entre el 16 de marzo de 2020 y el 16 de setiembre de 2021 en San Pablo.

JBS anunció compromiso de sostener fuentes de empleo en sus plantas brasileñas

Fonte: Valor Econômico. This post was last modified on 26 de março de 2020 11:53

Na maior empresa privada não financeira do Brasil, a ordem é preservar todos os empregos e seguir em frente com o pacote multibilionário de investimentos. Em entrevista concedida nesta quarta-feira ao Valor, o CEO global da JBS, Gilberto Tomazoni, afirmou que a companhia mantém todas as operações em funcionamento para garantir o abastecimento de carnes em meio ao avanço da covid-19.

“Estamos assumindo o compromisso de manter os empregos e somos relevantes”, ressaltou o executivo.

No mundo, a JBS emprega mais de 240 mil pessoas. Apenas no Brasil, o número de funcionários é da ordem de 120 mil. Considerando empregos indiretos, o grupo contribui com mais de 400 mil vagas no país.

Tomazoni reconhece que a JBS está em uma posição privilegiada — hoje, a companhia reportou o melhor resultado da história, com lucro de mais de R\$ 6 bilhões em 2019. “Sinto orgulho de que a nossa indústria pode fazer isso”, afirmou o executivo, ressaltando que a empresa adotou uma série de medidas para proteger os funcionários.

Com operações nos quatro cantos do mundo, a JBS está em países como a Itália, onde a pandemia do coronavírus já fez mais de 7,5 mil mortos, e Reino Unido, que está em quarentena. EUA e Brasil, que lidam com a rápida propagação da doença, são as principais plataformas de produção do grupo.

Entre as medidas para proteger os funcionários, Tomazoni mencionou a ampliação da frota de ônibus que transporta os trabalhadores no Brasil. Para aumentar a distância entre os empregados, a empresa dobrou o número dos veículos que fazem o transporte coletivo. Os tradicionais jogos de baralho e dominó, que fazem o lazer dos trabalhadores nas pausas para refeição e descanso, foram suspensas com o mesmo objetivo, acrescentou o executivo.



Financeiramente, a JBS nunca esteve tão bem para atravessar a turbulência e, ao mesmo tempo, manter os investimentos.

No balanço divulgado nesta quarta-feira, a companhia mostrou que, em 31 de dezembro, tinha disponíveis US\$ 4,5 bilhões (incluindo recursos do caixa de uma linha de crédito rotativo nos EUA). No ano passado, a companhia alongou o perfil de vencimento das dívidas, emitindo títulos no exterior ao mesmo tempo em que quitava empréstimos mais caros com bancos. No fim de 2019, a companhia possuía recursos para honrar com as amortizações por seis anos e meio.

Além disso, do endividamento bruto de R\$ 53 bilhões que a empresa brasileira tinha em 31 de dezembro, somente 3,9% vence no curto prazo (em até um ano). O índice de alavancagem, que mede a relação entre a dívida líquida e Ebitda, estava em 2,16 vezes — o menor patamar dos últimos anos.

Ao Valor, o vice-presidente de finanças e de relações com investidores da JBS, Guilherme Cavalcanti, acrescentou que, mesmo sem a necessidade de recursos, o grupo decidiu ampliar ainda mais o confortável colchão de liquidez que possui como uma medida de precaução. Segundo ele, a empresa tomou linhas de créditos disponíveis junto a bancos no Brasil e no exterior.

Cavalcanti não revelou quanto a JBS tomou em linhas de créditos no primeiro trimestre, mas disse que a empresa tem disponíveis atualmente mais recursos do que no fim do ano. Isso mesmo quando considerado que o primeiro trimestre é um período de maior consumo de caixa, frisou. “Todo mundo está sendo mais prevenido. As agências de rating nem consideram incremento de dívida bruta a tomada de linhas de crédito para deixar o caixa mais seguro”, ressaltou o vice-presidente da JBS.

Com a liquidez garantida, a empresa não fez qualquer alteração no ritmo de investimentos. No Brasil, a JBS anunciou no ano passado o maior pacote de investimentos da história. Ao todo, serão R\$ 8 bilhões em cinco anos. Incluindo o que será aplicado pelos produtores integrados de frangos e suínos, o montante chega a R\$ 13 bilhões. A estimativa da JBS é que os investimentos no Brasil gerem 25 mil empregos diretos.

Em meio à urgência de combater o coronavírus, o desempenho da JBS em 2019 acabou ofuscado. Além do lucro líquido recorde, a companhia ultrapassou, pela primeira vez, a marca dos R\$ 200 bilhões em receita líquida. Embora não seja o hora para celebrações, esse resultado dá sustentação para o grupo atravessara a maré adversa.

“Quando vem uma crise dessas, o tamanho do navio e o número de horas do comandante faz toda a diferença”, afirmou Tomazoni.

JBS interrumpió operaciones en una planta por precaución

31 March 2020 JBS will reduce beef production for two weeks at a Pennsylvania plant after managers displayed flu-like symptoms.

According to reporting from Reuters, the JBS facility is the first US meat plant to cut operations due to coronavirus fears.

In a statement issued on Monday 30 March, members of the facility's senior management team were sent home to monitor their health as a precaution.

JBS did not say how much production would be reduced or whether the employees were being tested for COVID-19.

The plant has more than 1,000 workers and is the largest beef facility east of Chicago, serving customers along the eastern seaboard and around the world, according to the company, a subsidiary of Brazil-based JBS SA.

The facility will continue to run "fabrication and ground beef operations" and should return to normal on 14 April, according to the statement.

Meat plants in Canada have already been shut temporarily due to concerns about the virus.

Empresa canadiense suspendió actividad luego de un caso positivo de COVID-19

30 March 2020 Harmony Beef, a beef packing plant in Alberta, halted slaughter on Friday after an employee tested positive for coronavirus.

According to reporting from Reuters, slaughter was suspended after the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) prevented some inspectors from coming to work at Harmony Beef due to the positive COVID-19 test.

The partial closure follows a positive COVID-19 test from a worker at Sanderson Farms Inc in the US earlier last week.

The rapid spread of the coronavirus has led to consumer hoarding and stockpiling of staple grocery items, making meat-processing more lucrative.

According to a statement from Harmony, the Alberta Health Department notified the on 26 March that a worker, who had not been processing beef for days, had tested positive. Harmony sent the other workers in his section of the slaughter area home for 14 days even though they were non-symptomatic.



In a statement, CFIA confirmed it did not provide inspection services on Friday after it learned that a Harmony employee had tested positive for COVID-19.

Federally regulated slaughter plants are not allowed to operate without inspectors present.

The Balzac, Alberta plant can process 750 head of cattle per day, much less than bigger plants in the province owned by Cargill Ltd and JBS USA. While slaughter has halted at Harmony, it is still carrying out other types of processing.

Harmony, owned by the Vesta family, hopes to fully re-open on Monday 30 March pending talks with CFIA, he said.

Alberta produces more beef than any other Canadian province.

Meat production is so profitable currently that Cargill and JBS have added Saturday shifts, said Kevin Grier, a meat and livestock analyst.

Meat plants have gone to great lengths to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including assembly of tents and trailers to create greater distance among workers, Grier said.

Harmony screens every worker daily for symptoms and increased cleaning in the plant weeks ago, Cotton said.

The CFIA told meat-processing plants last week it would reduce the agency's staffed hours at domestic plants because of capacity constraints.