NOTICIAS INTERNACIONALES AL 07/08/2020

GLOBAL

FAO: Precios mundiales de los alimentos aumentan en julio

Los aceites vegetales y los productos lácteos empujan al alza el índice de precios de los alimentos de la FAO, mientras que los precios de la carne y el arroz disminuyen
Photo: @FAO/Luis Tato
El índice de precios de los cereales de la FAO se mantuvo prácticamente sin variación desde junio, aunque los precios del maíz y el sorgo registraron un incremento pronunciado.6 de agosto de 2020, Roma - Los precios mundiales de los alimentos siguieron subiendo en julio por segundo mes consecutivo, en particular los de los aceites vegetales y los productos lácteos, de acuerdo con el informe de referencia de las Naciones Unidas.
El índice de precios de los alimentos de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO) registró un promedio de 94,2 puntos en julio, es decir, un aumento del 1,2 % desde junio y cerca de un 1,0 % más que en julio de 2019. El índice de precios de los alimentos de la FAO hace un seguimiento de los precios internacionales de los productos alimenticios más comercializados.
El índice de precios de los aceites vegetales de la FAO aumentó en un 7,6 % desde junio y alcanzó el nivel más elevado en cinco meses, debido al aumento en las cotizaciones internacionales de los principales aceites en un contexto, en el caso del aceite de palma, de probable desaceleración de la producción, reactivación de la demanda mundial de importaciones y prolongada escasez de mano de obra migrante. El índice de precios de los productos lácteos de la FAO subió un 3,5 % durante el mes, con aumentos en todos los productos, desde la mantequilla y el queso hasta las leches en polvo.
El índice de precios de los cereales de la FAO se mantuvo prácticamente sin variación desde junio, aunque los precios del maíz y el sorgo registraron un incremento pronunciado -influenciado por las importantes compras por parte de China a los Estados Unidos de América-, mientras que los del arroz cayeron a raíz de las perspectivas de cosechas abundantes en 2020. Los precios del trigo sufrieron pocas variaciones debido a la escasa actividad comercial.
El índice de precios del azúcar de la FAO subió un 1,4 %, ya que las elevadas cifras de la molienda de azúcar en el Brasil mitigaron solo parcialmente los efectos de la subida de los precios de la energía y las perspectivas de reducción de la producción de azúcar en Tailandia debido a una grave sequía.
Por el contrario, el índice de precios de la carne de la FAO se redujo en un 1,8 % en julio y registró un promedio inferior (un 9,2 % menos) al nivel alcanzado en julio de 2019. Las cotizaciones de las carnes de cerdo y bovino disminuyeron durante el mes debido a que el volumen de la demanda mundial de importaciones se mantuvo por debajo de las disponibilidades exportables, a pesar de las perturbaciones ocasionadas en el sector por el coronavirus en las principales regiones exportadoras. Los precios de la carne de aves de corral aumentaron, influenciados por la reducción de la producción en el Brasil provocada por los elevados costos de los piensos y la preocupación acerca de la demanda en el futuro.
En julio de 2020 se amplió la cobertura de precios del índice de precios de los alimentos de la FAO y se revisó su período de referencia. En el artículo especial que figura en el último número de Perspectivas alimentarias (en inglés) se explican los detalles de esta revisión.

ASIA

CHINA se mantiene como principal factor de crecimiento del mercado

07 August 2020
Following are the latest developments on the world protein front.
US beef net sales of 13,400 MT reported for 2020 were down 55 percent from the previous week and 35 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases primarily for Japan (4,600 MT, including decreases of 600 MT), South Korea (3,200 MT, including decreases of 400 MT), Canada (1,200 MT, including decreases of 100 MT), Taiwan (1,100 MT, including decreases 100 MT), and Indonesia (900 MT), were offset by reductions primarily for Chile (100 MT). For 2021, net sales of 1,700 MT were primarily for Mexico. Exports of 17,600 MT were down 4 percent from the previous week, but up 8 percent from the prior 4-week average. The destinations were primarily to South Korea (5,600 MT), Japan (4,900 MT), Taiwan (1,800 MT), Canada (1,200 MT), and Mexico (1,100 MT).
Global food prices climbing
World food prices rose for a second month in a row, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. The FAO reported its food price index climbed 1.1 points (1.2 percent) from June to an average of 94.2 points in July. That's also up nearly 1 point (1.0 percent) from year-ago. FAO said, "Similar to June, further increases in the prices of vegetable oils, dairy products and sugar outweighed lower prices in the meat markets amid overall steady value of the cereal price index."
FAO lowered its global cereal production forecast for 2020 by 9.3 million metric tonnes (MT) to a still-record 2.790 billion MT. It expects global wheat production to account for 761.5 million MT of that tally,

which is up 3.2 million MT from its forecast last month and in line with last year's above-average production. The increase was primarily driven by a jump in its Australian wheat production forecast, with widespread rain and favourable forecasts expected to boost yields.

USDA quarterly meat report: growth in meat imports driven by China

In July the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued its quarterly meat report. USDA said demand for imported meat in China remains incredibly strong as the protein deficit caused by African swine fever (ASF) continues to drive trade. Despite headwinds caused by COVID-19 and disruptions to the economy and foodservice, demand growth during the first 5 months of the year exceeded expectations. As a result, forecasts for pork, beef, and chicken meat imports are all revised upward. China continues to increase its share of the global market, accounting for over 43 percent of global pork imports and 29 percent of beef. Altogether, China now accounts for 28 percent of imports by major traders, up from 20 percent in 2019. Despite rising imports and growing production of chicken and beef, total meat consumption is expected to decline 4 percent this year.

Beef

The global beef production forecast for 2020 is revised down 1 percent from the prior forecast on lower-than-expected slaughter in Brazil, China, and North America. Temporary processing disruptions resulted in lower production forecasts for Canada and the United States, while year-over-year growth in China beef production is revised down in the face of stiff import competition. Meanwhile, depressed domestic beef demand and lower cattle prices in Brazil are causing producers to delay slaughter.

The global beef export forecast for 2020 is unchanged at 10.7 million tonnes. Estimates for Argentina, Brazil, the European Union, and Mexico are revised higher while those for Canada and the United States are revised lower. Gains for both Argentina and Brazil reflect weak currencies and strong Chinese demand. Furthermore, the current economic environment has limited domestic beef demand, increasing exportable supplies. During 2020, Argentina and Brazil are expected to export 25 and 26 percent of their respective beef production. For Brazil, this is a record high while for Argentina it is the highest proportion since the 1970s. Meanwhile, Canada and US exports are revised lower on temporary processing disruptions and weaker demand from major buyers.

Exportaciones de hacienda en pie elevadas pese al COVID 19

Dr Ross Ainsworth, August 7, 2020

80th Edition: July 2020.

Key Points

Live cattle export volumes continue at high levels in spite of Covid 19.

Live pigs are a similar price to cattle in Vietnam.

The combined strengthening of the Aussie $ and rising feeder prices is making future trading environment very difficult for everyone

Indonesia

Slaughter Steers AUD $3.97/kg live weight (Rp10,200 = $1AUD)

Slaughter cattle prices saw a small rise at the end of the month probably associated with the festival of Qurban on the 30th/31st of July. Some importers were able to push their rates up from Rp40,000 to Rp41,000 so I have set the indicator rate for July at Rp40,500 per kg live weight.

While Indian buffalo meat is back in the retail market its availability remains limited so this may also have contributed to the slightly higher demand for live cattle.

Qurban demand was subdued as would be expected given the economic impact of the virus restricting people's ability to make charitable donations for the slaughter and distribution of meat from cattle, sheep and goats. Many mosques asked donors to slaughter their stock in a local abattoir then deliver the packaged meat to the mosque in order to reduce the numbers of people concentrating in the grounds. Prices for Qurban cattle were in the order of Rp65,000 per kg live weight for local Bos indicus and crossbred cattle with Rp63,000 for Bali cattle. Slaughter numbers have been estimated to be about 40% down on previous years.

The June import number hit a high of around 67,000 head which is quite a spike after a long run of monthly figures in the 30,000 to 45,000 range. Once again, this rise is probably related to advance orders placed when the feeder prices were extremely low in April this year.

This frozen Indian buffalo has just reappeared in the cabinets at the Giant supermarket in BSD city, a suburb of Jakarta. Given its very unattractive appearance it is not surprising that it must sell at the discounted rate of Rp82,500 per kg or AUD$8.09 per kg.

The same supermarket is also selling US beef at Rp175,000 or AUD$17.17 per kg.

Everyone is wearing masks at the busy Pasar Modern wet market in BSD city.

Darwin feeder steer prices continued to move higher during July to end the month at around $3.50 per kg live weight. Cattle are always harder to find at this time of the year in both the NT and Queensland but numbers still keep coming as the shipments in July remain strong.

Rates for slaughter ox in Townsville have eased a little to around $3.35 at the end of July following a reduction in prices offered by the Queensland processors.

Vietnam

Slaughter Steers AUD $4.39 / kg (VND16,400 to $1AUD)

Prices for slaughter cattle were once again steady during July at Dong 72,000 per kg live weight. June import data shows that 32,300 head were imported, another strong month, well above recent averages of closer to 20,000 head. July shipments are expected to be of a similar magnitude.

The African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak continues to hammer pork supplies with reports of live pig prices (Dong 88-93,000 per kg live weight – I assume breeders) making them similar to or higher than live cattle for the first time on record. See the OIE summary map below showing ongoing and new outbreaks in the middle weeks of July. A large proportion of these ongoing outbreaks are located in Vietnam and its immediate neighbours. These huge pig prices will no doubt be a part of the justification for the surge in imports of live cattle. Given the very long time it takes to halt the march of ASF and then rebuild the industry, it will probably be 2-3 years at least before local pig prices return to pre-ASF levels. Some live pigs are being imported from Thailand which has done a great job to keep the disease out of their country.

Vietnam demonstrated extremely effective action when it controlled the initial outbreak of Covid 19 but now there is a second wave which has impacted Da Nang City, a major regional centre and tourist icon. Let's hope they do a better job dealing with it than Victoria.

China

Slaughter Cattle AUD $6.47 / kg (RMB 4.95 = AUD$)

Slaughter cattle prices were slightly higher during July although the AUD rate above is the same as last month due to the strengthening of the Aussie currency.

Some wet markets are once again open in Beijing as one of my fresh beef quotes this month is from a market that was closed in June.

In 2017 there appeared to be a strong likelihood that the trade in slaughter cattle from Australia would take off with the potential for a massive new market for live cattle exports from Australia.

Nobody has been able to provide a satisfactory explanation as to why the Chinese authorities have not modified the import health protocol in order to allow the live slaughter and feeder cattle trade to develop.

Filipinas

Slaughter Cattle AUD $5.91 / kg (Peso 34.7 to AUD$1)

No change in prices again this month. One shipment of 2900 head was delivered from Australia to the Philippines in June. Retail beef, along with other food prices remains remarkably steady during this disruptive pandemic period. Surprisingly, this also includes pork prices despite the significant damage being done by the ASF outbreak in both Luzon and Mindanao. See the OIE map above.

Tailandia

Slaughter Steers AUD $4.41 / kg (Baht 22 to $1AUD)

Slaughter cattle prices increased this month in both Baht and AUD terms with the local price at Baht 97 per kg live while the feeder cattle prices have also increased once again from 115 to 120 Baht per kg live or AUD$5.45 per kg live.

July 2020 prices These figures are converted to AUD$ from their respective currencies which are changing every day so the actual prices here are corrupted slightly by constant foreign exchange fluctuations. The AUD$ figures presented below should be regarded as reliable trends rather than exact individual prices. Where possible the meat cut used for pricing in the wet and supermarket is Knuckle / Round.

BRASIL

Precios sostenidos y mejora en el consumo

Sexta-feira, 7 de agosto de 2020 - A primeira semana do mês e o Dia dos Pais (9/8) estão contribuindo para melhorar o consumo de carne bovina. No mercado atacadista de carne sem osso, em São Paulo, a cotação subiu em média 0,9% (6/8), considerando todos os cortes monitorados pela Scot Consultoria, na comparação semana a semana.

Com relação ao mercado do boi gordo, na região Sudeste de Rondônia, o preço da arroba do boi gordo subiu R$3,00 ou 1,5% na última quinta-feira (6/8) na comparação dia a dia. Com isso, a cotação ficou em R$205,00, bruto e a prazo, R$204,50, livre de Senar e em R$202,00, descontado o Senar e o Funrural.

No Norte do Tocantins, a cotação também subiu. A alta foi de 0,5% ou R$1,00/@ frente ao dia anterior (5/8). Na região, o boi gordo está cotado em R$220,00/@, bruto e a prazo, R$219,50/@, com desconto do Senar e em R$216,50/@, sem impostos (Senar e Funrural).

Em São Paulo, a cotação do boi gordo ficou estável em R$226,00/@, bruto e à vista, R$225,50/@, livre de Senar e em R$222,50/@, descontado o Senar e o Funrural. O boi jovem, até 30 meses, é negociado em R$230,00/@, bruto e à vista.

Exportaciones brasileñas de carne vacuna alcanzaron récord para julio

por Cecilia Ferreiraagosto 5, 2020
Las exportaciones brasileñas de carne alcanzaron su máximo histórico para julio, con China como principal propulsor.
Los envíos de carne vacuna al exterior sumaron 169.200 toneladas el mes pasado, de acuerdo a los datos publicados por la Secretaría de Comercio Exterior (Secex) ésta semana. Muestran una suba de 27% respecto a las 133.200 toneladas comercializadas en julio de 2019, publicó el diario Valor Económico.
En facturación, los envíos de carne totalizaron US$ 690,7 millones, un aumento del 30% en la comparación interanual.
Lygia Pimentel, socio gerente de la consultora Agrifatto, señaló que se trata del mayor volumen exportado para el mes de julio.

Embarques alcançaram 169,24 mil toneladas no mês passado, um recorde para o mês de julho e só abaixo do volume registrado em outubro de 2019, de 170,55 mil toneladas
As exportações brasileiras de carne bovina in natura alcançaram 169,24 mil toneladas no mês passado, um recorde para o mês de julho e segundo maior volume da história, ficando abaixo apenas do registrado em outubro de 2019 (de 170,55 mil toneladas), informa o economista Yago Travagini, consultor pela Agrifatto, com base nos dados da Secretaria de Comércio Exterior (Secex).
A quantidade registrada em julho de 2020 representou elevação de 11% sobre o volume obtido no mês anterior, de 152,47 mil toneladas, e aumento de 27% em relação ao verificado em julho de 2019, de 133,19 mil toneladas.
A receita obtida com as vendas de bovina in natura atingiu US$ 690,74 milhões, avanço de 30% no comparativo anual (US$ 442,11 milhões) e acréscimo de 5,4% sobre o faturamento em junho de 2020 (US$ 655,47 milhões).
Segundo Travagini, um ponto negativo registrado em julho último foi o decréscimo no valor médio da carne bovina in natura exportada, que atingiu US$ 4,08 mil por tonelada, o menor preço dos últimos doze meses, com uma queda de 17% frente o maior preço registrado em 2020 – em janeiro/20, quando a carne bovina foi negociada por US$ 4,90 mil/tonelada.
O consultor da Agrifatto aponta dois fatores para explicar o recuo no valor médio do produto brasileiro. O primeiro deles foi a decisão da China em renegociar preços pagos pela proteína brasileira. “Se consolidando como maiores compradores e fazendo compras constantes, eles (os importadores chineses) encontram mais margem para renegociar”, justifica.
Além disso, continua Travagini, as indústrias frigoríficas do País conseguem vender mais barato em dólar e recebem o mesmo valor em reais, “já que a moeda norte-americana valorizou mais de 35% frente ao real nos últimos 12 meses”.

Autoridades insiste en que embargo de China por COVID-19 es injustificado

03/08/2020 - China suspendió temporalmente un número importante de plantas brasileñas por contagios masivos de trabajadores.
Faxcarne | El Secretario de Comercio y Relaciones Internacionales del Ministerio de Agricultura, Orlando Ribeiro, dijo a Valor que la suspensión de las exportaciones de frigoríficos brasileños por parte de China afecta la rutina operativa y el valor de mercado de estas empresas.
Reforzó la posición del gobierno brasileño de que los bloqueos son “injustificados”.
Anteriormente, el ministro asesor de la embajada china, Qu Yuhui, dijo que la interrupción en la compra de carne de algunas plantas brasileñas fue una “medida de precaución” adoptada por Beijing y que esto no dañará el comercio entre los dos países.

Medidas sanitarias por COVID afectan funcionamiento de la industria frigorífica

Fonte: Portal DBO. This post was published on 7 de agosto de 2020
Fiscalizações diárias e até de surpresa, além de um forte esquema de higienização e monitoramento constante da saúde dos funcionários. Esta tem sido a rotina, especialmente dos 265 frigoríficos de abate de bovinos habilitados à exportação, desde que o surto do novo coronavírus começou a atingir escala preocupante em meados de maio, em todo o País.
“Não sou de estar do lado dos frigoríficos, prefiro sempre estar do lado do produtor. Mas, desta vez, percebo o quanto este setor está sendo pressionado por todos os lados”, avalia o zootecnista Caio

Rossato, consultor de pecuária e diretor executivo da consultoria PecBR, em Campo Grande (MS). “Desconheço se outro setor econômico está recebendo o mesmo tratamento no País.”
Desde março, o Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento (Mapa) tem emitido relatórios mensais sobre as fiscalizações em unidades frigoríficas por conta da expansão da Covid-19. De fato, logo no início da pandemia as unidades de abate de bovinos foram as mais que mais causaram preocupação no setor de processamento de proteína animal.
Paralisações no setor
Em abril, começam a ocorrer as paralisações nas unidades de abate: 42 no total, sendo 31 de bovinos (73,81%) em nove Estados. O mais afetado foi o Mato Grosso, com dez unidades paralisadas e o segundo maior exportador de carne bovina no País. O Mato Grosso do Sul e Pará, tiveram seis unidades paralisadas.
Em maio, o relatório listou 47 frigoríficos paralisados, sendo 28 de abate de bovinos (59,57%) em 12 Estados, mais o Distrito Federal. Novamente, Mato Grosso despontou com cinco unidades paralisadas, seguido por Goiás e Pará, com 4 abatedouros paralisados cada; e Mato Grosso do Sul e Rio Grande Sul, ambos com 3 frigoríficos com operações interrompidas.
O mais recente, publicado no início de julho, mostrou que nove unidades tiveram as atividades paradas provisoriamente, das quais apenas 2 de bovinos (22,22%), uma unidade de Rondônia e outra no Tocantins. O esforço foi conjunto para diminuir esses números.
Não são apenas empresas como as gigantes JBS, Marfrig, Minerva que estão empenhadas em mostrar suas ações para barrar a entrada do vírus nos frigoríficos. Empresas de médio e pequeno portes, como por exemplo o gaúcho Frigorífico Silva, também têm tomado medidas drásticas de atenção sanitária. Na avaliação de Rossato, as companhias estão fazendo o máximo que podem para manterem-se distantes da Covid-19.
“Para atenderem as normas, as empresas tiveram de reduzir seu quadro de funcionários e capacidade de abate”, diz Rossato.
A queda da capacidade pode chegar até a 30%, na opinião do zootecnista. Uma unidade que antes matava 700 bovinos por dia, passou a abater 490 por dia. Unidades de abatiam mil, reduziram para 700 animais, diariamente.
Mais carne para fora
A dedicação tem um nome: dólar alto. Como boa parte dos abates estão sendo direcionados para o mercado externo, as consequências de uma planta exportadora comprometida por surtos de Covid-19 poderia trazer prejuízo à empresa. Os frigoríficos exportadores, nesse momento, estão mais expostos.
No ano passado, o rateio da produção de carne foi de 77,31% para o mercado interno, 6,35 milhões de toneladas, e 22,69% para as vendas externas, com 1,86 milhão de toneladas. A tendência é que essa balança pese cada vez mais para o lado exportador. A corrida pela exportação, nos últimos anos, mostra o peso que as vendas externas. A fatia dessas vendas saltou de 17,8% da produção nacional em 2011, para 27,1% até o final deste ano, de acordo com as previsões do Anuário da Pecuária Brasileira 2020 (AnualPec), publicado pela IHS Markit. Segundo Rossato, o dólar alto é que está segurando as contas da indústria, especialmente para cobrir o custo da queda de produção.
O fato é que, embora a oferta de gado pronto para o abate não seja das melhores para a indústria, o mercado anda bem, segundo avalia Rossato. O Brasil bateu recorde de exportação no primeiro semestre do ano. De janeiro a junho foram 907,57 mil toneladas comercializadas por US$ 3,93 bilhões. O crescimento em volume foi de 9,27% sobre o mesmo período do ano passado, segundo o Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento (Mapa).
Até o final do ano, a previsão é que as exportações chegue a 8,7 milhões de toneladas, segundo a IHS Markit. A China, a maior cliente da carne brasileira, deve contribuir com uma fatia gorda e crescente. No primeiro semestre, o país asiático negociou US$ 1,84 bilhão por 364,67 mil toneladas, 40,18% do total de carne exportada pelo Brasil.
Desde 2016, o chinês passou a consumir mais a carne bovina brasileira, configurando em 3º entre os cinco países que mais compraram a proteína animal brasileira. Em 2019, a China passou a ser a maior importadora, seguido por Hong Kong, Egito, Chile e União Europeia.

Rio Grande do Sul más cerca de dejar de vacunar contra la AFTOSA

Fonte: Valor Econômico. This post was published on 7 de agosto de 2020
O Rio Grande do Sul já possui o aval técnico do Ministério da Agricultura para avançar no processo que fará do Estado uma zona livre de febre aftosa sem a necessidade de vacinação. A afirmação é da superintendente federal da Agricultura no Rio Grande do Sul e auditora do Ministério da Agricultura, Helena Pan Rugeri.
Atualmente, Santa Catarina é o único Estado do país que tem o status junto à Organização Mundial de Saúde Animal (OIE).

Segundo Rugeri, o relatório da área técnica do Ministério deverá ser liberado apenas na semana que vem, mas os resultados da auditoria foram satisfatórios.
“Atestamos que não há vírus de febre aftosa circulando no Rio Grande do Sul, o que nos dá segurança”, afirmou.
Um dos apontamentos que não foram plenamente atendidos, mas está em andamento, é a capacitação de técnicos.
“O treinamento antes era feito presencialmente, mas por causa da pandemia estão sendo feitos virtualmente”, acrescentou Rugeri.
Na próxima segunda-feira, a Federação da Agricultura do Rio Grande do Sul (Farsul) avaliará o pleito da auditoria em uma reunião com os sindicatos rurais.
Depois, o Estado passará por uma avaliação nacional para só então a OIE fornecer o parecer final. Como parte do protocolo, o Mapa enviará os documentos para o trâmite do status do Rio Grande do Sul e do Paraná para a OIE até a próxima sextafeira (14). O Paraná já deixou de vacinar seu rebanho.
Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná, Amazônia, Acre, Rondônia e Mato Grosso pleiteiam o status como parte do Programa Nacional de Erradicação e Prevenção da Febre Aftosa (PNEFA), aprovado em 2017 e em vigor até 2026.
“Caso esses Estados consigam o status, 30 milhões de vacinas deixarão de ser aplicadas”, avaliou Rugeri.

URUGUAY

Certificación de carne libre de Covid-19: “Hay un tsunami de solicitudes”

06/08/2020 El director de UBI Meat Experts in QA, Sebastián Victorica, dijo que el control de calidad “se está viendo como un servicio esencial”.
Con la nueva normalidad que se plantea ante la presencia del Covid-19 y las posibilidades que han manejado algunos mercados de que los alimentos sean un vector de contagio, los frigoríficos de la región han aumentado su demanda sobre servicios de “certificación libre de covid-19”.
“Se está dando un tsunami de solicitudes y por suerte los clientes lo están viendo cómo una necesidad”, dijo Sebastián Victorica, director de UBI Meat Experts in QA, una empresa dedicada a brindar servicios de control de calidad.
“Científicamente no se ha comprobado que la enfermedad se transmita a través de la carne”, pero ante la situación actual en mercados, como el de China, “el control de calidad comercial de UBI sirve como carta de seguridad adicional”, y en este sentido “nos están mirando cómo un servicio esencial”, explicó el empresario.
“Actualmente estamos trabajando para documentar y mostrar mayor transparencia en conjunto con plantas de Uruguay, Argentina, Brasil y Paraguay, e incluso estamos abiertos a trabajar con el INAC si nos llaman”, comentó Victorica, subrayando que “es bueno para Uruguay demostrar que se está haciendo algo, porque sino estamos dando pie a que nos reclamen”.
“En Argentina y Brasil han aumentado notoriamente las solicitudes y estamos trabajando con gente local que tenemos en cada zona, lo que nos facilita las actividades ante la cuarentena”, apuntó.
Explicando la operativa de la empresa, Victorica dijo que “no garantizamos el libre de covid-19, pero documentamos la realización de los testeos negativos y mostramos eso dentro de los procesos y controles de calidad”.

Exportaciones estables en volumen en julio con caída en el precio

por Cecilia Pattarinoagosto 5, 2020
Las exportaciones de carne vacuna en julio alcanzaron las 31.803 toneladas peso carcasa, apenas por debajo de las 32.018 del mismo mes del año pasado y un 16% menos que las del mes anterior (37.876 toneladas), según los datos del Instituto Nacional de Carnes.
Por primera vez en el año, el precio de exportación se ubicó por debajo que el de un año atrás –por un ajuste en el precio a China-. Promedió US$ 3.738 la tonelada peso canal US$ 130 menos que los US$ 3.868 de julio del 2019.
China se mantiene como el principal comprador, pero con una participación menor respecto a un año atrás: 42% en julio de 2020 contra el 72% en 2019. Las ventas a China totalizaron 13.498 toneladas, una caída de 42% respecto a las 23.194 de un año atrás y muy similar a las del mes anterior.
El precio de exportación de la carne a China en julio se ubicó por debajo de los US$ 3.000 la tonelada por primera vez en 18 meses. Promedió US$ 2.866 la tonelada peso canal, US$ 800 menos que el mes anterior y US$ 670 menos que los US$ 3.533 de un año atrás. Las ventas a Estados Unidos más que se duplicaron respecto al mismo mes del año pasado, alcanzando un total de 9.971 toneladas. Sin embargo,

cayeron un 18% respecto a las 12.201 toneladas enviadas en junio –las más altas en 13 años-. La participación de EEUU sobre el volumen total exportado por Uruguay aumentó de 14% a 33% en un año.
Al igual que EEUU, las exportaciones de carne a la Unión Europea más que se duplicaron en julio respecto a junio, pasando de 1.264 toneladas a 3.398. La participación creció de 4% a 11% en un año.

Uruguay exportó 25.500 toneladas a un precio promedio de US$ 5.025 por tonelada peso embarque.
En un año con una producción de carne en “franco descenso”, la exportación de carne vacuna de Uruguay en julio “sorprendió en cuanto a los volúmenes comercializados”, aseguró a Rurales El País Rafael Tardáguila.
El director de la consultora Tardáguila Agromercados comentó que los volúmenes enviados a los mercados alcanzaron 25.500 toneladas, “nunca se había exportado ese nivel de carne en un séptimo mes del año”. Sin embargo, son cifras levemente inferiores a los números de junio.
Tardáguila dijo que el país venía con una corriente comercial reducida pero en julio se pudo vehiculizar la venta de mejor manera. “El mercado no muestra señales de recuperación, se mantiene la incertidumbre, pero se puede colocar carne y los exportadores no especulan con eventuales subas de precios, sino que venden sus stocks”, indicó.
De todos modos, el consultor explicó que entre junio y julio la faena de bovinos en Uruguay marcó una superioridad a los mismos meses del año pasado, cortando una tendencia bajista que se acumulaba entre enero y mayo. “Buena parte de esa producción del bimestre se exportó en julio”, añadió.
El precio promedio de julio fue de US$ 5.025 por tonelada peso embarque, un nivel similar a los negociado en junio. Tardáguila comentó que “el valor medio se mantiene medianamente estable”.

Importaciones de carne equivalen a 100.000 novillos en lo que va del año

por Cecilia Pattarinoagosto 5, 2020
Las importaciones de carne vacuna de enero a julio totalizaron 18.915 toneladas peso embarque –equivalente a 103.000 novillos aproximadamente- por un total de US$ 76 millones. Se registró un aumento de 41% respecto a las 13.441 toneladas del mismo período del año pasado y de 49% en divisas según los datos de la Dirección Nacional de Aduanas.
La carne vacuna nacional tiene cada vez más competencia en el mercado interno. La escasa oferta de ganado para faena y el diferencial de precios con la región inciden en un aumento en las importaciones de carne vacuna que marcan un nuevo récord a pesar de una caída de 15% en el consumo.
En julio las importaciones crecieron por segundo mes consecutivo consolidándose como las segundas más altas del año. Las compras totalizaron 3.103 toneladas, 16% más que las 2.667 del mes anterior y un 2% por encima que un año atrás. A diferencia de los primeros cuatro meses del año, en los que el precio se ubicó por encima de los US$-CIF 4.000 y por encima que el año anterior, en julio el precio fue de US$ 3.709 la tonelada peso embarque ($ 160 el kilo), 205 dólares menos que los US$ 3.914 del mismo mes del año pasado.
Uruguay se consolidó en los últimos dos años como un fuerte importador de carnes. Según los datos del Instituto Nacional de Carnes, en los primeros cinco meses de 2020 uno de cada cuatro kilos es de origen importado (25%, frente al 13% del mismo período de 2019)
¿Qué ingresa y de dónde?
En carne vacuna los principales cortes son del trasero deshuesados (55%), como bola de lomo, nalga, cuadrada, bife angosto, bife ancho y colita de cuadril envasados al vacío. También cortes del delantero (26%) como paleta y aguja y recortes o trimmings (11%).
La carne vacuna viene mayoritariamente de Brasil (83%) aunque su participación ha bajado debido a la devaluación del real, en segundo lugar está Paraguay (15%) y en menor proporción Argentina (1,3%).
Abasto Santa Clara, Saturno y Tamiral lideran las compras de carne del exterior con una participación del 25%, 12% y 9% del total respectivamente.

Veterinarios en contra de importación en pie

05/08/2020 - 3:55 AM
Piden a las autoridades que reflexionen ante riesgo que implica.
La Sociedad de Medicina Veterinaria del Uruguay (SMVU) expresó explícitamente que desde el punto de vista de la salud animal, “no cree conveniente permitir el ingreso de ganado en pie” y decidió “hacer un llamado a la reflexión a las autoridades sobre los riesgos que implica importar ganado en pie para nuestro sistema ganadero”.
A través de un comunicado emitido ayer, la gremial remarcó que la sanidad animal “sigue siendo patrimonio nacional, defendido, cuidado y respetado a ultranza por los productores, los Servicios de Sanidad Animal y por la profesión veterinaria en su conjunto”. A su vez, el Consejo Directivo de la SMVU decidió solicitar a la Comisión Nacional Honoraria de Salud Animal, “una reunión para tratar este tema, en la cual cada una de las gremiales integrantes defina su posición”.

La semana pasada, el ministro de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca, Carlos María Uriarte dijo a El País que “si bien no está laudado (el tema), porque el Gobierno no ha tomado posición al respecto, creo que hubo una discusión muy buena, mucho mejor de lo que habíamos pensado cuando pusimos el tema en la mesa, pero también creo que en estos momentos las condiciones no están dadas”.
La SMVU fundamenta su postura contraria al ingreso de bovinos en pie para faena recordando que “los certificados sanitarios acordados con los países a los cuales exportamos carne como ser Canadá, Chile, China, Corea, Israel, Japón, USA, y Unión Europea, exigen que la misma provenga de animales nacidos y criados en el país”. Pide que, en caso de importar, “debe encerrarse los animales previo al embarque en origen, identificarlos y proceder a realizar muestreos para descartar presencia de enfermedades y ectoparásitos, debiendo la autoridad sanitaria del país vendedor como el comprador certificar en origen, la situación sanitaria de los animales”.
Considera que en caso del importado, ese ganado no va a tener la caravana de trazabilidad habitual del ganado y no va a tener historia ni de nacimiento, ni de los propietarios, ni lugares en los cuales se realizó su crianza y/o engorde”. El análisis se centra en importar ganado para faena en el abasto.

Endeudamiento bancario de la industria frigorífica subió 17,4% en el primer semestre

por Cecilia Ferreiraagosto 3, 2020
El endeudamiento de la industria frigorífica subió en junio, aunque se frenó el ascenso de los créditos vencidos, que en mayo marcaron un máximo desde que hay registros (al menos desde 2001).
El monto total de créditos del sistema financiero a la industria frigorífica creció 2% de mayo a junio con US$ 341 millones. En la comparación interanual mostró una suba de 16%, con US$ 293,1 millones en junio del año pasado, de acuerdo a los datos desagregados del Banco Central.
Los créditos vencidos frenaron la suba luego de haber alcanzado un máximo histórico en mayo. Sumaron US$ 15,80 millones, muy por encima de los US$ 2,81 millones registrados en junio del año pasado.
Los créditos vigentes se ubicaron en US$ 325,6 millones, 2% arriba del mes anterior y 12% más frente a un año atrás.
Si se observan los primeros seis meses del año, el monto total créditos promedió US$ 337,6 un salto de 17,4% frente a los US$ 287,37 promedio en el periodo enero-junio de 2019.
En el caso de los créditos vencidos, en los primeros seis meses del 2020 el promedio fue de US$ 14,54 millones, un ascenso marcado respecto a los US$ 1,33 millones promedio entre enero y junio del año pasado.

Presidente de INAC dijo que Naciones Unidas se manifesta de «manera infeliz e injusta» con el sector agropecuario

por Cecilia Ferreira agosto 5, 2020
El presidente del Instituto Nacional de Carnes, Fernando Mattos, consideró que Naciones Unidas “se manifiesta de manera infeliz e injusta” con el sector agropecuario por el tuit –que posteriormente fue borrado- en el que afirmaba que la industria cárnica es responsable de más emisiones de gases con efecto invernadero que las mayores empresas mundiales de petróleo.
“La propia FAO salió al cruce de ese comunicado (…) Es un aviso infundado, tendencioso y claramente motivado por una activismo que no corresponde a una organización de tanto prestigio, como son las Naciones Unidas”, dijo en el programa Tiempo de Cambio de radio Rural.
El gobierno uruguayo, a través de un comunicado del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, manifestó su rechazo a la publicación de Naciones Unidas (Ver más abajo).
Mattos adelantó que desde INAC se promoverá la medición de emisión de gases de efecto invernadero en la ganadería vacuna, en colaboración con otras instituciones, como INIA.

“Quizás la primavera china para la carne uruguaya haya pasado”

04/08/2020 - 5:29 PM
El director de Cibils Soto Consultores aseguró que de no cambiar las condiciones de competitividad del país, las menores exportaciones a China las “vemos con un riesgo de profundización” en la medida que siga habiendo oferta de los competidores.
“Salvo que cambien las condiciones de competitividad, quizás nos tengamos que empezar a acostumbrar que la primavera china para la carne uruguaya haya pasado”, aseguró a Rurales El País Marcos Soto, director de Cibils Soto Consultores.
El especialista dijo que en un “escenario extraño” como el actual “es esperable que suceda una baja en las exportaciones”, pero China “se recupera rápidamente” de la pandemia, “está recomponiendo sus stocks y reactivando las compras al mundo”. Y agregó: “China está comprando y más, pero está comprando menos a Uruguay, eso preocupa”.

En la carne bovina, donde Uruguay supo ser el principal proveedor a China hace algunos años, “estamos viendo un efecto de desplazamiento por nuestros competidores, que entran con productos similares”, explicó Soto.
Dijo que una de las razones es que los países competidores han igualado las condiciones que Uruguay supo tener como ventajas en el pasado, por ejemplo, que podía defender su producción con el estatus sanitario de sus plantas frigoríficas, y hoy numerosas plantas de Brasil y Argentina lograron ser habilitadas.
Y sumó: “Esos países trabajan a otras escalas y a iguales condiciones, ellos pueden mejorar los precios. Es lo que ocurre si no tenemos atributos diferenciadores”.
Soto dijo que las menores compras de China no se tratan de un problema coyuntural, sino estructural. “Lo vemos con un riesgo de profundización en la medida que siga habiendo oferta de los competidores, pero también se debe ver como una oportunidad: si el proceso nos obliga a diversificar los mercados es parte de las buenas noticias que trae la marea”, resaltó.
Situación que sucedió recientemente, tras la caída de China a finales del 2019 y principios del 2020, Uruguay aumentó la exportación de carne bovina a Canadá y Estados Unidos, por ejemplo. “Forzosamente, la caída de China, ha provocado una diversificación de los mercados que se deben seguir trabajando en defensa de la sanidad y la calidad de los productos”, indicó.

INAC va a instalar la primera oficina en el exterior”

02/08/2020 - 4El Presidente del Instituto Nacional de Carnes aseguró que la instalación de una oficina en Asia busca “el fortalecimiento de la marca carne uruguaya”, para lograr un diferencial desde “la calidad y las garantías”. Asimismo, dijo que el país “ha perdido posición desde el punto de vista de las ventajas sanitarias” y se debe trabajar para llegar a mercados en los que no está Uruguay pero sí los competidores de la región. Además, señaló que “no es momento” para revisar los aportes del 0,6 y 0,7% para la financiación del INAC.
-Al cierre del primer semestre, China ha aumentado un 42% sus importaciones de carne vacuna con todos los proveedores subiendo sus volúmenes a excepción de Uruguay, ¿cuál debería ser la estrategia del país en China en un contexto de menor competitividad?
-Lo principal debe ser el fortalecimiento de la marca carne uruguaya. Tenemos que diferenciarnos en materia de calidad y garantías, hay una confianza muy importante de las autoridades chinas en aspectos de inocuidad y cumplimiento, y eso se debe capitalizar en la medida que tengamos posibilidades de desarrollar esquemas de promoción. En ese sentido, la estrategia de mediano plazo es esa. Hemos establecido una agenda ambiciosa de desarrollo de marca en China y es muy probable que tengamos anuncios importantes como la instalación de la primera oficina de INAC en el exterior.
-¿La oficina se va a instalar en China?
-Estamos dialogando, tenemos un convenio con el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores con el apoyo de la agregaduría agrícola en China, donde trabajamos en conjunto con la Embajada. Pero está la decisión y el apoyo de la Junta del INAC de abrir una oficina, que inicialmente podrá ser en la Embajada de Uruguay, pero será la primera oficina de INAC en el exterior y la primera en Asia. Desde el punto de vista estratégico entendemos que Asia es el gran demandante de carne del futuro por los próximos 15 a 20 años y no es sólo China; también hay que sumar a países donde hay posibilidades reales de colocación que representan muchos millones de dólares de demanda: Malasia, Tailandia, Singapur, Vietnam, Filipinas e Indonesia. Por tanto, son 6 países que debemos apuntar como estrategia a efectos de diversificar nuestra pauta exportadora sin perjuicio de reconocer la importancia de China que continuará fuerte como demandante de la carne uruguaya.
-¿Es una oficina exclusivamente para trabajar el marketing o también apoyará la apertura de otros mercados en Asia?
-Será un apoyo de nuestros servicios en el exterior, pero va a estar abocada a la promoción y aspiramos que con su propio desarrollo se vaya a desempeñar y desplegar en todos los países de Asia. Algunos de nuestros competidores, como Australia, Nueva Zelanda y Estados Unidos, hace décadas que tienen oficinas abiertas en ese Continente y otros. En nuestro caso, hemos demorado mucho para dar el paso de intentar una primera señal de equiparación con los líderes mundiales en materia de promoción. Es un primer movimiento que se hará de forma lenta pero segura.
-En las últimas horas se reunió con el Canciller, ¿cómo se va a trabajar para mejorar en el acceso internacional y bajar los aranceles que paga el país?
-Es un tema central. Lo hablamos con el Canciller y su equipo y está la mejor disposición para trabajar en conjunto. Nuestro foco no es solo Asia, se habló de todas las acciones en los distintos Continentes, porque hay que diversificar nuestra pauta exportadora. Pero hemos pagado de aranceles en promedio a todos los mercados por encima del 10%, debido a la concentración en China que tiene un nivel de protección bastante menor a otros destinos. La situación podría haber sido peor. Además, sí estuvimos de acuerdo con el Canciller en que Uruguay ha perdido posición desde el punto de vista de las ventajas

sanitarias, que hizo usufructo por algunos años, porque Brasil y Argentina se han acercado en aspectos de acceso en cantidad de países, algunos de ellos en los que no accedemos y ellos sí. Y otros competidores, como Australia y Nueva Zelanda, que han tenido una agenda mucho más activa en cuanto a tratados de libre comercio, donde claramente están presentando ventajas de acceso con un menor pago de aranceles con la posibilidad de ser más competitivos.
-En lo institucional, ¿hay espacio para reducir los aportes del 0,6 y 0,7%?
-En este momento no, porque buena parte de las reservas están en nuestro presupuesto, se está armando un plan estratégico de los próximos cinco años, también estamos contribuyendo con US$ 20 millones al Fondo Coronavirus y US$ 1 millón para el INDA, y tenemos que enfrentar una situación de menos ingresos por menores volúmenes de exportaciones de este año que van a impactar en INAC y debemos ser cuidadosos en todas las funciones que cumplimos que son importantes, como el mantenimiento de las cajas negras y otros proyectos que vendrán como la tipificación automática. Además de unos de los objetivos de nuestra gestión, a partir del plan estratégico, que es pensar en el INAC del futuro abocados en la revisión del marco legal del Instituto: para que quede modernizado e incluso tengamos la posibilidad de reducir las alícuotas de contribución en la medida que no se justifica, a nuestro entender, acumular reservas de forma ilimitada como sucedió en los últimos años.
"Preocupa endeudamiento de pequeña y mediana industria"
-Con menos ingresos por exportaciones y un endeudamiento industrial con la banca privada de unos US$ 300 millones, ¿cómo se ve la situación?
-Es una situación que lógicamente preocupa, va a ser el cuarto año negativo para las industrias. Y es lógico que este año no dé buenos resultados en la medida que la actividad bajó tanto. Claramente sabemos que los costos operativos de Uruguay, en la medida que no se tenga suficiente ganado para procesar, vamos a tener un costo unitario de faena mayor y afecta directamente la competitividad y los resultados de las empresas. Nos preocupa mucho más las pequeñas y medianas industrias que sufren los efectos de la crisis y la menor disponibilidad de materia prima, porque en una menor escala es más difícil diluir los costos que el propio sector tiene que enfrentar.
-¿Importar ganado puede ser la opción de asegurar a algunas industrias la disponibilidad de materia prima?
-No solucionaría el problema. Hay que evaluar los riesgos que significaría una importación, además de saber que no estemos actuando por una coyuntura. Es un año de menor oferta a efectos de la exportación en pie, pero también por la sequía que impactó en la producción interna. Además, estamos frente a un recuperación del stock con 600 mil reses más al cierre del ejercicio agrícola y habrá una recomposición que llevará tiempo. Hay que balancear beneficios y riesgos, y creo que los riesgos que se asumen son importantes.

PARAGUAY

Aprueban protocolo para los frigoríficos

1 de agosto de 2020 12:54 PM Imprimir
CompartiremailFacebookTwitterEl Ministerio de Salud aprobó el protocolo de buenas prácticas para evitar la propagación del Covid-19 en la industria cárnica. La mayoría de las disposiciones ya se venían implementando en las empresas. La disposición incluye a las plantas de procesamiento de carnes y derivados como embutidos, hamburguesas, menudencia, chacinería, rendering y otros, informó el Servicio
El Ministerio de Salud aprobó el protocolo de buenas prácticas para evitar la propagación del Covid-19 en la industria cárnica. La mayoría de las disposiciones ya se venían implementando en las empresas.
La disposición incluye a las plantas de procesamiento de carnes y derivados como embutidos, hamburguesas, menudencia, chacinería, rendering y otros, informó el Servicio Nacional de Salud y Calidad Animal (Senacsa).
Además de las medidas de higiene que debe implementar la empresa, se debe conformar un comité de respuesta que verifique la aplicación del protocolo y haga el debido seguimiento a los casos sospechosos y confirmados, así como la verificación de la desinfección de sus áreas de trabajo.
CONTROL. Los frigoríficos deberán conformar un comité de respuesta que cuente con un coordinador. Cada miembro cumplirá un rol en el equipo, el cual se encargará entre otros aspectos de hacer el seguimiento de la salud de los trabajadores y documentar los eventos en un acta, también verificará la adecuación de infraestructura así como las actividades de limpieza y desinfección.
En caso de detectarse un caso positivo, el personal deberá guardar reposo y reportar su evolución, mientras que en la planta se determinará el aislamiento preventivo para los colaboradores que tuvieron un contacto estrecho con el trabajador.
Para la detección de los casos que podrían estar vinculados con los confirmados, se tiene en cuenta la proximidad lineal, aplicada por ejemplo en la playa de faena y desposte; la triangular, que corresponde al sector de menudencia y tripería, mientras que en el depósito de productos terminados se opera en pareja

INTERRUPCIONES. Debido a la baja demanda de la carne, las plantas estuvieron trabajando al 50% de su capacidad, mientras que en algunos casos la faena de abril fue nula, como ocurrió en los frigoríficos Mussa y Frigomerc, pertenecientes a Athena Foods.
Se estima que los frigoríficos emplean directamente a 10.000 personas e indirectamente a aproximadamente 50.000 personas.

Taiwan se fortalece como destino para carnes paraguayas

05 August 2020 Taiwan's beef imports from Paraguay are expected to be 10 times higher than they were in 2015.
Taiwan News reports that Taiwan is embracing "beef diplomacy" to strengthen its relationship with Paraguay, its sole diplomatic ally in Latin America. Various sources state that Paraguay is being courted by China in an effort to thwart Paraguay's bilateral relationship with Taiwan.
Taiwan has ramped up beef imports from the South American country over the years to shore up its bilateral relationship and help it weather economic shocks. The economic cooperation agreement that began in February 2018 reduced tariffs.
According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Taiwan emerged as the third-largest beef export destination for the Latin American country in the first half of 2020, while it became the fourth largest beef supplier of Taiwan. The country imported 2,104 tonnes of beef from Paraguay in 2015, and that number is expected to grow 10 times higher this year.
Only 15 states now recognise Taiwan amid Beijing's continued campaign to peel off Taiwan's diplomatic allies. Faced with mounting pressure from China and the domestic business sector, Paraguayan President Mario Abdo Benitez has reassured ties with Taiwan, which he described as "a true friend," according to Marcial Bobadilla Guillen, Paraguayan ambassador to Taiwan, in a comment he made last month.

UNIÓN EUROPEA

BREXIT : advierten que una negociación incompleta generará serias trabas en el comercio de carnes

04 August 2020
The British Meat Processors Association (BMPA) reports that serious barriers to trade remain unresolved ahead of the withdrawal period deadline.
The BMPA reports that there are multiple outstanding issues with the UK and EU Brexit negotiations that have the potential to seriously disrupt trade both to the EU and the rest of the world.
Since a number of British meat packers and processors want to honour their existing contracts and negotiate new ones, the BMPA has written to Defra to ensure that the key issues are resolved as quickly as possible, allowing business to continue without disruption.
Clarification needed before 31 December deadline
In the Conservative manifesto there is a commitment to "seeking to gain market access for British businesses and lowering the cost of trade" for them as well as to "redouble efforts to promote British business and UK exports and dismantle barriers to trade."
If this is to happen, these are the issues that must be resolved before the end of the year, many of which could have been dealt with well before now, independently of any trade negotiations. The meat industry needs to know:
The UK will have country approval and plant listings for export to the EU.
That the UK has clarified what the healthmark will be for GB and NI and when they will be introduced so that companies can have confidence in purchasing packaging which have long lead in times
That the UK has communicated changes to certification and health mark arrangements with other 3rd country competent authorities and received acknowledgement and agreement from them
That there will be health certificates on which UK exports of chilled meat preparations, mincemeat and of poultrymeat MSM can continue to be sent to the EU market
That the UK has devised a workable scheme that allows groupage and mixed loads to be sent to the EU and that companies have advanced knowledge of the details so they can adapt
That the UK has sufficient affordable veterinary (or other) resource for the significantly increased certification requirements
From an import standpoint we also need clarification on a number of areas as a matter of urgency:
What the import certificate will look like for both EU and rest of world imports to the UK.
Clarification on how groupage and mixed loads can enter the UK from the EU.
Businesses cannot prepare with these questions unanswered and they cannot wait any longer for answers.

ESTADOS UNIDOS

Demanda de carnes bovinas y Macroeconomía

Derrell Peel - Oklahoma State University August 3, 2020 The U.S. economy was wracked like never before in the first half of the year. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released preliminary estimates showing that U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined by an unprecedented 32.9 percent year-over-year in the second quarter of 2020. This follows a five percent first quarter decrease compared to last year. This highlights questions about the impact of the pandemic on beef demand in the first half of the year and, more importantly, beef demand for the remainder of the year.

The first half of 2020 was a confusing mix of beef demand and supply dynamics, complicated by dramatic disruption of beef supply chains. Overall beef demand was difficult to judge accurately as surging retail grocery demand was offset by sharply diminished food service demand and all obscured by temporary supply shortages that reduced overall beef availability.

Record overall wholesale and retail beef prices masked a variety of impacts in various beef product markets related to the type of demand for the product and the ability to shift product from food service to retail grocery supply chains.

Beef supply conditions have stabilized, albeit at higher levels of production year over year in the second half of 2020. Beef demand will be critical in determining overall beef prices and, subsequently, cattle prices going forward. Beef demand, as for any product, is generally a function of consumers' willingness and ability to purchase specific quantities of the product at various prices of the product.

Willingness to purchase beef consists of a couple of components. Underlying consumer preferences determine overall demand for beef. Tastes and preferences tend to be relatively stable, evolving over longer periods and generally appear strong, i.e. beef is popular. In the short run, willingness to purchase beef will depend on the relative prices of other products, particularly substitute products that may be consumed in place of a particular product.

For specific beef products, this is a complicated consideration, including other proteins such as pork and poultry, as well as the multitude of other beef products that may be chosen by consumers. In periods of low income, beef consumers may "trade down" from high cost beef products to lower valued products. Food service demand, which remains diminished, will emphasize this impact going forward.

Ability to purchase a product is related to the level of consumers' discretionary income. Consumers must have income to purchase a product regardless of how much they desire the product. Generally, macroeconomic conditions including overall GDP levels along with unemployment are indicative of income levels. The U.S. economy is in recession and will be for the balance of the year and likely into next year. Unemployment peaked at 14.7 percent in April before declining to 11.1 percent in June. Unemployment is expected to decline but will remain elevated in the second half of the year. GDP is projected to be lower for the remainder of the year with annual estimates down in a range of 6.5 to 8.0 percent year over year.

In the first half of the year, the dramatic drop in GDP and increase in unemployment did not correspond directly to similar beef demand impacts because federal stimulus and unemployment benefits partially offset direct negative economic impacts on consumers. Macroeconomic conditions as well as the status of economic support will play a key role in overall beef demand going forward.

Revisarán el acuerdo con China el próximo 15 de agosto

05 August 2020

Senior officials from both countries will review the implementation of the Phase 1 trade deal during a 15 August video conference.

According to reporting in Reuters, two sources familiar with the matter believe that senior Chinese and US officials will likely use this opportunity to air mutual grievances as the diplomatic relationship between the two countries becomes increasingly tense. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, the principal negotiators for the two countries, will participate in the meeting, an initial six-month review of the pact activated on 15 February

The meeting plans were first reported by the Wall Street Journal. The US Trade Representative's office and the US Treasury did not respond to requests for comment.

Under the Phase 1 trade deal signed in January, China had pledged to boost purchases of US goods by some $200 billion over 2017 levels, including agricultural and manufactured products, energy and services.

But China, battered by the global coronavirus recession, is far behind the pace needed to meet its first-year goal of a $77 billion increase. Imports of farm goods have been lower than the 2017 level, far behind the 50 percent increase needed to meet the 2020 target of $36.5 billion.

Beijing has bought only 5 percent of the energy products needed to meet the Phase 1 first year goal of $25.3 billion

One of the people familiar with the plans said Chinese officials hoped to discuss other issues beyond the Phase 1 trade deal implementation.

"It's both the normal semi-annual review and also comes at a time when the relationship continues to deteriorate. Naturally there is much to discuss," the person said.
China's ambassador to the United States, Cui Tiankai, said on 4 August that there was always a plan for high-level consultations six months into the pact, but the two sides have remained in regular contact over the trade deal.
"If they do have such a meeting I guess it will be very positive," Cui told a virtual event sponsored by the Aspen Security Forum.
Trump has threatened to end the trade pact over China's handling of the coronavirus, which originated in the city of Wuhan, and tensions have risen over US sanctions related to China's security crackdown on Hong Kong.

Proyecto de ley para transparentar los mercados ganaderos

07 August 2020 Two senior Republican senators from leading farm states are at odds over legislation aiming to make cattle markets more transparent.
Reuters reports that the legislation was introduced in response to curb the price fluctuations seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.
US Senator Chuck Grassley from Iowa and a bipartisan group of colleagues introduced a bill in May that would force meatpackers like JBS USA , Tyson Foods and Cargill Inc to buy at least half the beef cattle they slaughter directly from producers on the open market and then kill those animals within two weeks.
Grassley said the bill would make it easier for farmers to track market prices and increase competition among meatpackers that often lock in prices with producers under longer-term contracts.
Cattle prices fell in March and April as slaughterhouses shut due to COVID-19 even as beef prices soared to their biggest premium over cattle since records began in 2001. The bill is meant to prevent such distortions that squeeze ranchers.
US Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, is a surprising opponent. Grassley, in a call with reporters this week, accused Roberts of delaying the bill and said Roberts' staff is "geared up" to fight it.
"I'm working to understand the diverse perspectives within the industry regarding market volatility and transparency," Roberts told Reuters in a statement.
Roberts said some cattle producers do not see how Grassley's bill will help. Meat packers are against it, an industry lobbyist said, as are some producer groups that oppose the federal government dictating free market practices.
Adam Jones, owner of Crooked Creek Angus in St Francis, Kansas, said a lack of price discovery currently means ranchers who sign contracts with packers might not know if they are getting a good market price.
"The whole system works for the packers, but not for producers," said Jones, 38. "For Roberts to not give cattle producers the chance to be heard is completely tone deaf."

Mercado de manufactura firme – Crecen Brasil y Argentina

06 August 2020
Key points:
Imported 90CL prices remain above the five-year average
The Australian dollar continues to gain momentum lifting to US72¢
Competitor presence within US beef market has been growing, led by Mexico
The US imported 90CL (Chemical Lean) indicator (a benchmark price for manufacturing beef into the US) is holding steady above the 2015-2019 average. However, market conditions across the US remain unsettled, with COVID-19 demand uncertainty, seasonally low Oceania offerings, shifting exchange rates and the increasing presence of South American suppliers all currently troubling factors.
Steiner Consulting reported that the imported beef market steadied last week after some previous uncertainty and volatility. The imported 90CL beef indicator was unchanged this week at US220¢/lb CIF (AUD486¢/kg CIF).
Tightening beef supply from Australia and New Zealand has provided some support to US import prices, while uncertainty regarding the demand outlook has also been a contributing factor. Surges in COVID-19 cases has forced California to shut down indoor dining at restaurants, bars and movie theatres. There is also the possibility of roll backs in other key states. Fortunately, demand through retail channels remains upbeat.
The Australian dollar has seesawed in 2020, largely against the US dollar, as volatility in global markets has affected investor sentiment. Since plummeting in March amid heightened global uncertainty, the Australian dollar has rallied, and is now back above year-ago levels, reaching 72US¢ on Tuesday. As a result, product from lower cost competitors in Southern and Central America has contributed towards more competitive market conditions on the back of an appreciating Australia dollar.

For the year-to-date, total US beef imports are up 8% on 2019 levels, as strong prices for lean grinding beef have undoubtedly caught the attention of international suppliers. Mexico has emerged as a key supplier to the US, with an abundance of local beef, strong US retail demand and the soft value of the Peso all supporting Mexican packers. For the year-to-date, US imports from Mexico have just tipped past 160,000 tonnes swt, and are second only to Canada, where volumes are just shy of 175,000 swt for the same period.

Recent outputs from South American suppliers have been growing, with Brazil, Argentina and Nicaragua beef exports benefiting from a more competitive price point due to soft currency values. COVID-19 related trade barriers have slowed some South American beef exports to China, which has resulted in these suppliers looking to diversify exports to other markets such as the US.

AUSTRALIA

Ganado australiano con los valores más elevados del mundo

Jon Condon, August 6, 2020 AUSTRALIAN slaughter cattle are now officially the most expensive among major beef exporting countries in the world.

As the graph above, drawn from Meat & Livestock Australia’s recent mid-year industry projections update shows, Australian cattle prices are now considerably higher than US equivalent finished cattle prices, with Uruguay a distant third.

The difference between US and Australian cattle prices narrowed to virtually zero in this article published on Beef Central a few months ago, but the transition is now official.

Australian cattle prices have only rarely topped equivalent prices in the US in A$ terms in the past ten years, last occurring briefly during 2016, when Australian producers were intent on rebuilding cattle herds, at a time when international beef demand was on the rise. At the same time, US cattle prices were being pushed lower by drought turnoff.

While near-record high cattle prices in Australia this year have been fuelled by the overall livestock supply shortage caused by herd reductions after two years of drought, other influences are also at play.

The big decline seen in US cattle prices in recent months (captured in the graph) has clearly been a factor.

“We saw US livestock prices really fall off a cliff, while wholesale meat prices went in the opposite direction during COVID,” MLA analyst Adam Cheetham told Beef Central. “In fact the re-positioning in global beef prices is as much to do with lower US and South American cattle prices, as it is about price rises in Australia,” he said.

Fed cattle prices in the US since late June have averaged the lowest since 2010, Steiner’s Daily Livestock Report said overnight.

The five-area weighted average put the US live steer price this week at US$96.57/cwt (2020 trend indicated in blue line in this graph), down from about US$112/cwt this time last year (dotted line), and about US$130/cwt averaged over the previous 2014-18 period (red line).

A surplus of US fed cattle supplies has emerged, following the back-up in slaughter cattle that occurred during mass US processing plant closures due to COVID in May and June. This has pushed US cattle prices sharply lower, and the price trend was likely to continue through at least August and September, DLR reported.

Currency movement has been another factor in Australia’s elevation as home to the world’s most expensive slaughter cattle. After dropping to US55c briefly back in April following the onset of COVID and the strengthening in the US$, the Aussie dollar is currently trending higher – trading at US71.8c this morning. That’s up about 6c since early May.

“I don’t think we would have anticipated that appreciation happening back when the value dropped so severely in April,” Mr Cheetham said. “The recent currency movements aren’t doing Australian export processors any favours – that’s for sure,” he said.

The fact that international beef demand was currently subdued did not help, when livestock price and currency value were so high. The cattle price effect was perhaps less significant during periods of high customer demand, Mr Cheetham said.

“It’s a challenge, but we also have to look at the positives – the fact that livestock prices are so strong clearly signals the improvements in domestic conditions. Counter to trends in all previous droughts in Australia, strong international beef demand, led by China’s African Swine Fever outbreak, kept cattle prices very buoyant over the past two years of drought sell-off. We have really come off a high base,” he said.

Mr Cheetham said there was no question that slaughter cattle supply would be extremely tight for the next few months, which would continue to offer support to cattle prices. Uncertainly surrounding demand caused by COVID would create its own pressure, but this was hard to predict.

With the supply of slaughter-ready cattle becoming increasingly constricted as the year has progressed, processors have maintained strong price grids, while the tight availability of slaughter cattle at saleyards has also underpinned robust prices.
The NLRS national heavy steer indicator today sits at 364c/kg liveweight, up from 350c/kg a week ago, and 16pc higher than the 312c/kg seen this time last year.
Global conditions are yet to override the improved domestic market when looking at the impact on domestic prices.
However Australia now faces a cattle market out-of-sync with key competitors and with a global recession on the horizon, MLA warned in its recent mid-year projections.
Any assessment of the likely trend in finished cattle prices needed to balance the negative impact of COVID-19 across markets and channels and the potential for increased competitor pressure, against tighter Australian supplies and the ongoing protein deficit created by African Swine Fever.
Together, these factors create an uncertain, evolving and challenging scenario, MLA said.

Exportaciones acompañan la caída de la faena

06 August 2020
Key points:
Total beef exports totalled 88,800 tonnes swt, back 23% on July last year
Beef shipments to China eased sharply for the second month in a row
Sheepmeat exports to the United States performing well
July red meat export figures were released this week, with reduced volumes largely influenced by lower Australian production, increased competition and a strengthening Australian dollar. Beef exports in July totalled 88,786 tonnes shipped weight (swt), down 23% from the same month last year.
The US was Australia's top destination for beef exports in July, with volumes reaching a steady 23,700 tonnes swt, on par with July 2019 levels. Retail demand remains upbeat, as the spread of COVID-19 continues to complicate the re-opening of foodservice outlets across various states.
Beef shipments to China contracted for the second consecutive month, reaching just 12,500 tonnes swt, half the volume sent in July 2019. Subdued demand from China was influenced by a higher tariff imposed on Australian beef due to reaching the quota safeguard in June, strong competitor presence and the temporary delisting of four Australian plants. The pace of Chinese beef imports is expected to sit below 2019 volumes for the remainder of the year.
July beef exports to Japan were down 24% year-on-year, just shy of 21,000 tonnes swt. Tighter volumes are likely due to a combination of supply and demand factors. Mid-range eateries and hotels are some of the major users of Australian beef, but demand has been reduced due to social distancing rules, shortened business hours and a loss of tourists/business functions. Japan appeared to have combatted the spread of COVID-19, however, through July the number of new daily COVID-19 cases lifted gradually. This is likely to impact the recovery of foodservice channels and subsequently the demand for imported beef.

Jon Condon, August 4, 2020
AUSTRALIA'S July beef exports continued to slump, in line with the gradual decline being seen in rates of slaughter as the year progresses.
Shipments to all export markets last month reached 88,786 tonnes, down eight percent on the previous month, and back almost 23pc on July last year, when drought driven turnoff was in full-cry.
Last month was the lowest July export volume seen since July 2016, when just 80,767t was consigned, as Australia worked its way through a sustained herd rebuilding phase, holding back females for breeding.
Smaller beef kills as the 2020 year progresses have been the major driver in last month's result, but also playing a considerable role has been heightened export competition from the US – now fully-recovered from earlier processing plant closures due to COVID – as well as South America.
Currency is also a factor, with the A$ recently trading close to US72c in recent days – up about US6c since the end of April. A higher currency value makes it more difficult for Australian exports to compete in international markets.
China heavily impacted
While most major customer markets were impacted, China showed the largest falls in volume last month.
Trade with China in July reached just 12,554 tonnes, down 26pc on June volume, and less than half the volume seen in some months earlier in the year. China has now slipped from being Australia's single largest beef market by volume, to number four in July – behind the US, Japan and Korea.
A number of factors appear to be in play.
China lifted its tariff on Australian beef exports as part of its safeguard tariff protection mechanism in early July, pushing tariffs from 4.8pc to 12pc for the remainder of this year. That has effectively made Australian beef less competitive

China has imposed regulations on COVID-testing on imported meat products, despite no scientific evidence that foodstuffs that have arrived by ship can harbour the disease. Some Australian exporters have sought markets elsewhere, as a result.
South America continues to mount a strong competitive challenge in the China market, especially at the price-sensitive commodity end of the market. South American trim, for example, is said to be at least 10pc cheaper than Australian equivalent at present. World-leading cattle prices in Australia recently haven't helped.
This time last year, the China market was on fire, as the full impact of African Swine Fever on the country's pig population was being seen. Volume in July last year reached 28,214 tonnes, almost 16,000t more than last month.
Calendar year to date, China has taken 133,700t of Australian beef. That's virtually the same as last year, but the trends are reversed: last year, trade started slowly and built up as the year unfolded, whereas this year, a strong started has been followed by a significant decline over the past two months.
United States
The US market remained Australia's largest export customer again in July, but volume has started to drift as US meat processors return to full productive capacity after the earlier debilitating closures due to COVID sickness among workers, which at one point knocked out 40pc of US processing capacity. Australian beef became a hot item to fill the shortfall.
Trade last month reached 23,788t, down 9pc from the particularly large June shipments of more than 26,000t, and about the same as last year.
Calendar year trade to the end of July to the US has reached more than 138,000t, still up about 27pc on the same period last year, and partly compensating for recent trade declines into China.
Of some concern is recent reports of growing quantities of South and Central American grinding beef in the US market.
"More imported grinding beef is coming from markets other than Australia and New Zealand," Steiner Consulting recently reported in its weekly US imported beef report. "The additional 2000t or so of product that has arrived in the last three weeks has mostly offset the 2400t decline in imports from Australia. Mexico continues to push more product into the US, with a large share being cuts, but also more grinding product. Year to June imports from Mexico are currently around 152,000t, compared to 123,000t from Australia and 98,000t from New Zealand," Steiner reported.
Competitive challenge in Japan
Japan was not far behind the US in July imports of Australian beef, taking almost 21,000t, only slightly lower than June, but down about 23pc on July trade last year.
A mounting export challenge out of the US, as the country kills its way through the large back-log of cattle not processed earlier due to COVID plant closures, has stolen Japan market share from Australia. US imports to Japan have risen 8.5pc for the first half of the year, to almost 127,000t.
A rising A$ value, and the fact that since January the US has sold into Japan under the a considerably lower tariff have also helped shift trade flows. The US-Japan Trade Agreement's implementation in January has seen import tariffs on US decrease from 38.5pc to 26.6pc, the same as Australia's.
For the calendar year to date, Japan has taken almost 159,000t of Australian beef, up from less than 100,000t for the same period last year.
South Korea remained a significant beef market for Australia in July, despite mounting competitive pressure from the US. Korea took almost 12,800t last month, down about 15pc on the month before, and 13pc lower than July last year. Year-to-date, Korea has taken 90,400t, up from 77,100t last year.
In other markets, results were mixed, but generally reflected the impact of lower beef production in Australia.
Indonesia continued to perform strongly following last year's trade deal, taking 4392t of Australian beef in July, down from 4600t the month before, but down about 18pc on this time last year. Year-to-date trade has reached 32,400t, up about 8pc year-on-year.
The Middle East region continues to struggle under competitive pressure from cheap South American beef, taking 2800t of Australian beef in July. While up about 40pc on June, it was donw about 12pc on trade seen this time last year. Similarly, trade for the past seven months has not yeat reached 15,000t, but is still 33pc stronger than the same period last year.
The EU has all but disappeared as a significant market for Australian grass and grainfed meat, taking just 829 tonnes in July, down from a still small 1200t this time last year. For the year to date, trade is less than 5600t.

Imponen medidas de prevención en el Estados de Victoria – Afectan capacidad de producción

06 August 2020
Processor workforce capacity in Victoria will be scaled back for six weeks from Friday, as new restrictions are introduced in the state as part of stage 4 lockdown requirements. The changes will create logistical

pressures across the supply chain, in particular for sheepmeat, given Victoria is the largest lamb processing state.
It is not anticipated that restrictions will create a shortage of product for domestic consumers, with ‘panic buying’ the main contributor to the sparse product on retail shelves in recent days.
Production constraints
The restrictions will see processing plants in Victoria required to cut workforce capacity. To adhere to the changes, processors may look to increase the number of processing days or extend working hours, as many plants are currently not operating at full capacity due to limited livestock availability on the back of two years of elevated drought-driven turn-off.
Another factor limiting turn-off in Victoria is that sheep and lamb slaughter are seasonally lower during the winter months and processors typically take the opportunity to run maintenance during this period. In fact, before the announcement, Victorian cattle, sheep and lamb turnoff for the week ending 31 July were back 40%, 68% and 46%, respectively, compared to the highest weekly throughput over the last five years.
Current slaughter levels
Eastern states lamb slaughter was reported at 285,700 head for the week ending 31 July, up 15% on the same week last year. This was driven by New South Wales, which lifted 25% on year-ago levels to 114,000 head, as early new season lambs started to enter the market. Demand for lighter lambs is exceeding heavier categories currently, as export processors look to avoid being left with surplus product.
While sheep slaughter moved to the highest level since April, at 66,000 head, it was reported 30% below year-ago levels. Declines across both New South Wales and Victoria as producers look to rebuild flock numbers reflect the limited availability of sheep, back 36% and 31%, respectively, compared to year-ago levels.
Interstate opportunities
The improvement in conditions across the east coast earlier this year unsurprisingly renewed producer confidence, prompting a greater proportion of livestock to be retained on-farm for breeding purposes. Two consecutive years of heightened livestock turn-off has also contributed to lower throughput in 2020. Hence, processing capacity across all states is running below peak levels.
Despite the logistical challenges faced with interstate travel, opportunities exist for neighbouring states to support production levels and utilise surplus capacity. This is the case in Queensland, with ample capacity available to process cattle and processing plants in New South Wales and South Australia able to ramp up production levels for sheep and lambs if required.
Australia’s largest processing operators have a presence in multiple states and the movement of livestock interstate is common.
Exports redirected
The domestic market for Australian red meat remains its largest single market. However, export markets combined account for approximately 70% of total beef production and 75% of total sheepmeat production. The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in wide-scale shutdowns or restrictions in foodservice outlets in domestic and overseas markets, and the typical balance of demand for Australian product has shifted significantly, with processors increasingly working to redirect product to alternate channels. The domestic market has been a beneficiary of this shift, with a broader range of high-end products becoming available in butcher shops and on retail shelves, helping to supplement the increased prevalence of home dining in Australia.
Challenges
The restrictions are designed to contain instances of COVID-19 in the workforce and will serve for the greater good if entire plant shutdowns can be avoided, as comparable to production declines witnessed in the US in April. Australian processing facilities already comply with the most stringent health and safety measures, evidenced by globally renowned supply chain integrity systems.
As the sheep industry emerges from its seasonal low and the flush of new season lambs enter the market, available processing capacity will come into greater focus. Any extension of the stage 4 restrictions could create unwanted market pressures across the entire supply chain.
Critically, despite the logistical challenges and cost burden associated with the restrictions for Victorian processors, any reduction in throughput in the next six weeks will still be sufficient in meeting the demands of domestic consumers.

Terry Sim, August 3, 2020
VICTORIAN meat processors will have to cut back production by a third and implement significant workplace safety measures after midnight Friday this week under new Stage Four COVID-19 restrictions announced by the Premier Daniel Andrews today.
In an effort to slow the growth of community coronavirus transmission across the state, the Premier this afternoon outlined the businesses that will stay open, have to curtail operations or close, for the next six weeks.

Retail outlets except for those that are related to food and essential services will have to close, except for those equipped for take away and drive-through, but Mr Andrews said businesses able to remain open in a scaled-back form will include meatworks.
We know that meatworks are a really significant challenge for us," he said.
"Whether it be lamb, poultry or beef, they will move to two thirds production, so they will reduce their production by one third, and those workplaces will look very different."
"There will be some of the most stringent safety protocols that have been ever put in place in any industrial setting.
"Those workers will be essentially dressed as if they were a health worker – gloves and gowns, masks and shields," Mr Andrews said.
"They will be working in one workplace only, they will be temperature checked, they will be tested.
"It is a proportionate response to the risk that that industry poses, but given the critical part in keeping Victorians fed and indeed, the nation fed, given that so much activity hubs out of Victoria, particularly given the drought and other challenges in other parts of the country, it is not possible to go below that two-thirds level," Mr Andrews said.
"Cutting production by a third we still believe that people will able to have access to the products that they need.
"Again I can't guarantee that every single product at exactly the volumes that you might like to buy will be there, but there will be enough for people to get what they need – not necessarily what they want, but what they need."
Today's result is considered the best possible outcome by some processors, who feared the government might enforce total closure of meat processing in the state, following the spiralling COVID relapse. More than 300 Victorian meatworkers have been sickened by COVID-19 since April. leading to a series of plant closures.
Meat processing is one of a number of sectors which will operate under restricted conditions under the Victorian Government's Stage Four Restrictions. Others include cold storage, distribution centres, warehousing and construction.
AMIC response
The Australian Meat Industry Council said it had been advised that the restrictions, which take effect at midnight on Friday, included meatworks moving to 33 percent reduction of peak workforce, and increase the utilisation of PPE, temperature testing and other COVID-safe work interventions, most of which were already in place in all Victorian processors prior to today's announcement.
"AMIC has been lobbying tirelessly on our member's behalf to ensure that we remain as an essential service in the supply of food," AMIC chief executive officer Patrick Hutchinson said.
"The impact of these restrictions in Victoria, AMIC believes will lead to a 30 percent reduction in supply chain throughput overall, based on discussions with our membership.
"It is our opinion that this will lead to a reduction in saleable meat in the Victorian community," he said.
Butchers to remain open
AMIC said it welcomed the Victorian Premier's announcement yesterday, which confirmed that independent retail butchers will remain open across greater Victoria, being recognised as an essential service. 45pc of independent local butchers and wholesalers supply essential services, including nursing homes, hospitals or hotels.
AMIC would like to reiterate to all Australians that our members are committed to producing high quality and safe products. According to the World Health Organisation, other international health and food safety authorities, as well as both Australian and New Zealand Governments, there is no evidence that consumers can become infected with COVID-19 through food or food packaging," it said.
VFF response
Victorian Farmers Federation president David Jochinke said VFF and agriculture recognised the gravity of being one of the few industries permitted to continue under Stage Four restrictions.
"We understand the trust that has been placed in our sector and that we are accountable for keeping Victorians fed during this state of disaster.
"We have been in constant talks with government to advocate for farmers and ensure that decision-makers understand the importance of keeping the food supply chain open and those discussions have ramped up over recent days," he said.
"The VFF developed a detailed COVID-19 action plan for our industry which resulted in $410 million in additional Australian and Victorian Government expenditure which has enabled the agriculture industry to continue to operate."
Mr Jochinke said farmers are becoming increasingly concerned about restrictions to their business and business interruption, labour shortages, freight and logistics problems along with issues around access to inputs.

"We know that continuity of business is emerging as a big concern for farmers which is why our discussions with government have focused on four key principles: bipartisan and comprehensive approach to border issues, smoother flow of goods and services intrastate and interstate, strategies to enable the movement of the agricultural workforce and regulatory change to ensure that agriculture and its supply chain is classified as a critical service," he said.

Principales cambios introducidos

Terry Sim, August 4, 2020

VICTORIAN meat processors were today reorganising to meet and clarify new Stage Four COVID-19 lockdown restrictions that will mean cuts to their workforces by a third of daily peak production capacity levels.

There is also still some confusion in the sector as to what the term 'peak production capacity' means for processors, including those who have managed to avoid any major COVID-19 outbreak disruptions.

Government advisories yesterday variously said that the new workplace changes for meatworks coming in after midnight Friday would mean "a 33 percent reduction in throughout capacity to manage safety of employees" and a "33pc reduction compared to peak capacity".

The Australian Meat Industry Council was seeking clarification about the regulations, but had heard nothing by the time this item was published this afternoon.

A statement from Premier Daniel Andrews yesterday said:

"In industries that can't close, but where we've seen a number of cases or emerging new risks, we'll be making some big changes to make these workplaces safer – for workers and for their families. That includes mandated reductions to the number of workers onsite," he said.

"In the meat industry – and based on the minimum required to operate safely onsite – the workforce will be scaled back to two-thirds."

Sheep Central was told today the changes for Victorian meatworks will mean a one-third cut in peak capacity workforce numbers, with plants only able to have 66pc of their 'peak staff numbers' on site on any day. This would mean companies might need to change their operating hours or increase the number of shifts in a week to meet production targets and keep staff on.

Frewstal to extend production over five days

Frew International managing director Robert Frew said his Stawell plant had been operating on a four-day week, employing about 420 workers.

"So we will just go to five (days) and spread our production over five days, which will pull us in under that two-thirds production threshhold.

"We sort of been running at around 80pc for four days which is around that 63-64pc (over five days), so we will just whack an extra day in there with the same staff and we'll get through," he said.

"There will be more cost, obviously because we are running an extra day to produce the same amount of meat, but if we have to do it, we have to do it."

On the confusion about the restrictions, Mr Frew said he didn't believe the government was trying to get rid of jobs, "so it is definitely not workforce, it's definitely volume, so you can spread your workers out." He understood the new restrictions were being done to spread workers out in facility production and canteen areas.

"We have separation as much as we possibly can through the whole plant, these are the regulations now, so we've got to go with that."

Mr Frew said the company did not have an issue with the extra COVID-19 measures being enforced in meat processing plants such as personal protective equipment – gloves, gowns, masks and shields – and temperature checks and testing.

"We've been doing that anyway," he said.

Mr Frew said the sheep plant's daily small stock high tally is 5600 a day, and two thirds of that is 3700.

"So will just sit on 3700 (a day) and abide by the rules for the next six weeks."

Mr Frew thought plants which have not been linked to COVID-19 outbreaks were being unfairly penalised by the new restrictions, "but they (the Victorian Government) have got to try something."

"Obviously all meatworks are being punished, even the ones that have got it are being punished."

He said it was important to appreciate that COVID-19 outbreaks did not start in the meat industry, but by outside people coming into the sector, as was the case with aged care facilities.

"The meat industry is very well governed and we have to abide by strict hygiene rules including swabs of the plant every day and we spend up to 5.5 hours a day just cleaning the plant to make sure it is spotless for the next day's production."

He said his workers have been good in managing their movements outside the plant, with the few who have ventured into Melbourne being tested before being allowed back on site.

"We just need everyone to play their part and we won't have an issue at Stawell.

"If we get it at Stawell we will probably get it at Frews because we are the biggest employer."

At this stage, Mr Frew said there were no plans to move any production to Thomas Food International in South Australia, which recently bought a 50pc stake in the Frew Group.
“That’s a back-up plan if anything happens.”
He said the Stawell plant would start to get busier at the end of the six week restriction period.
“So it is probably not ideal timing and I can possibly see this going longer than six weeks too.”
One third cut in capacity would mean 500-plus jobs at Midfield
Midfield general manager Dean McKenna said he was still waiting to hear from a Victorian Government case worker to clarify what the workforce/capacity restriction will mean for his Warrnambool sheep and beef plant.
Mr McKenna believed his plant was being unjustly penalised by the restrictions after avoiding any COVID-19 infections among its workers through strict management of its workers, inspectors and the plant.
“My argument is we do not have a COVID-19 issue in this area and definitely not in this business and we are getting categorised the same as everyone else in meat processing.
“We are being penalised for the misfortunes of others and the reality of it is – and the government knows this – we just can’t put a third of our workforce off,” he said.
“These places are like a bike chain – you start pulling links out of the chain and the whole thing collapses.”
Mr McKenna believed his workers were safer in the community and in the workplace while under the guidance of the company. Reducing the plant’s production by a third of its peak capacity would mean 500-plus workers would lose their jobs.
These meat processing sector restrictions are among several lockdown requirements across the state designed to reduce the level of coronavirus community transmission across the state.
In addition to stricter personal movement and face mask regulations across Victoria, other industries – including retail, some manufacturing and administration business – will have to close by midnight Wednesday 5 August, unless they have specific circumstances that mean they need longer to shut down safely.
Supermarkets, grocery stores, bottle shops, pharmacies, petrol stations, banks, newsagencies, post offices and everyone involved in the state’s frontline COVID-19 response will continue to operate.
AMIC seeks clarification
Australian Meat Industry Council chief executive Patrick Hutchinson said at this stage, his organisation’s understanding was that the government’s reference to 33pc reduction referred to ‘peak staff numbers,’ but it had not yet been told how the term ‘peak staff numbers’ would be assessed.
How stakeholders determine ‘peak staff numbers’ has not yet been made clear, Beef Central was told by a Victorian processor. But given current lower rates of kill at beef and sheepmeat plants in eastern Australia following two years of drought, many processors may already be operating at well below any definition of ‘peak staff numbers’ that may have applied in 2018 and 2019.
Lamb likely to be impacted more than beef
Mr Hutchinson agreed with Beef Central’s suggestion that lower rates of plant throughput caused by reduced manning levels would have an inevitable impact on profitability.
“Some processors may elect to bring forward their annual seasonal shutdown, knowing that it is likely to be unprofitable to operate at these low rates of throughput,” he said.
The broad view is that the Victorian Government’s control measures appear likely to have greater impact on the lamb industry, than beef. Victoria is easily the nation’s largest lamb processor with the largest killing capacity, meaning other states simply lack the capacity to absorb a big chunk of Victoria’s lamb slaughter.
The state’s smaller beef kill (relative to other states) means it would be relatively easy to shift beef kills across borders.
“With herd rebuilding occurring in Queensland and NSW, there theoretically may be some under-utilised processing capacity in those states to shift Victorian slaughter cattle into,” AMIC’s Patrick Hutchinson said.
“But cost-wise, shifting cattle out of the state for slaughter, and perhaps bringing that meat back into Victoria to consume would add a lot of cost to the equation. Would a wholesaler/retailer be able to, or be prepared to absorb that cost?” he asked.
The proposed six-week reduced staffing period would extend into the first two weeks of September, when the flush of spring lambs normally made its way to market, he said. This was likely to apply even greater stress to Victoria’s ability to maintain adequate lamb slaughter numbers.

Menores existencias de Ganado en feed lots

Jon Condon, August 5, 2020
CATTLE numbers on feed fell by seven percent in the June quarterly feedlot survey released this morning.
The latest survey results for the June quarter compiled by Australian Lot Feeders Association and Meat & Livestock Australia showed numbers on feed at the end of June at 1.01 million head, down about 77,000 head from March, and 220,000 or 18pc lower than the record-high seen in the December quarter.

While still above one million head for the tenth consecutive quarter, numbers on feed have not been this low since December 2018, prior to the start of the drought.
Given that some yards were clearly operating 'over-capacity' during the depths of the drought last year, actual declines over the past six months may be larger than what was reported, grainfed stakeholders told Beef Central this morning.
Proportionately, it is the smaller 'opportunity' scale feedlots, which tend to be more flexible in their operations given lower overheads, which have declined the most. Yards 500-1000 head in size dropped 16pc in numbers in the past three months, while the smallest category for yards less than 500 head dropped by 23pc, as profitability declined.
Going against the broader national industry trend, Queensland saw a moderate 1pc increase in numbers between the March and June quarters, rising to 611,683 head.
In line with the improvement in seasonal conditions, southern states experienced reductions, with New South Wales decreasing by 40,621 head or 13.4pc, to 263,489 head, Victoria down by 13,032, or 18pc to 57,211 head, and South Australia softer by 6300 or 13pc to 40,714 head.
Western Australia recorded the largest percentage decrease, falling 22,496, or 37.7pc to 37,096 head, reflecting the normal seasonal nature of lotfeeding in the state.
Cattle availability challenge
ALFA president Bryce Camm said improved seasonal conditions and its impact on cattle availability has been a key driver of feedlot production dynamics over the last quarter.
"Good rainfall in southern states increased competition and reduced availability of suitable livestock to feedlot buyers," he said.
"While old crop prices eased slightly with the prospect of a good winter crop outcome, the combined factors of dearer cattle and relatively high grain price has impacted lot feeders' decisions," he said.
This pattern is clearly reflected in Beef Central's most recent 100-day grainfed trading budget, compiled back on July 22.
"Whilst there has been a level of pressure on the feedlot sector, it's encouraging for the cattle industry to see a number of areas currently experiencing improved conditions for cattle production and cropping," Mr Camm said.
Nationally, feedlot utilisation is back 8pc in the June quarter to 70pc, with all states recording declines from the March quarter, except for Queensland which remained relatively stable.
"Despite these challenges, numbers on feed above one million head demonstrates the industry's resilience and the continued demand for high quality grainfed beef from international and domestic markets."
Long-term commitment and investor confidence in the feedlot production system continues, with feedlot capacity increasing a further 2.5pc in the June quarter, to a record high 1.433 million head.
Sustained demand
MLA's senior market analyst, Adam Cheetham said while COVID-19 added a level of uncertainty in global markets, there was sustained demand for finished cattle over the April to June period.
"Reduced feedlot turnoff generated solid demand for finished cattle, with the Queensland 100-day grain fed steer over-the-hooks indicator reaching a record high at 670¢/kg carcase weight in the last week of June," he said.
Prices averaged 613¢/kg cwt for the quarter, in line with the March quarter and 7pc above year-ago levels, giving some relief to the challenges faced by the lotfeeding industry, he said.
"Despite the uncertainty COVID-19 has had on overseas markets, Australia's overall grainfed exports remained stable with the previous March quarter, totalling 78,076t shipped weight for the June quarter, back 2pc from year-ago levels," Mr Cheetham said.

Demanda de Ganado para engorde afectada por sequía

Liz Wells, August 5, 2020
DEMAND for mid-tier feedlots is looking flat in the near term as the sector regroups after a punishing half year brought on by dearer feeder cattle prices and prevailing strength in grain prices.
Tempering this is the appeal of the mixed farms that invariably surround feedlots, with two listings in New South Wales, Mirambee at Dubbo and Kia Ora at Walgett, and two in Western Australia, Kalimpa at Warradarge and WestBeef at Burakin, being cases in point.
All are licensed to hold around 5000 standard cattle units (SCU), and represent differing business propositions.
The Iker family's 2507-hectare Vandyke Feedlot at Springsure in Central Queensland is a different proposition again; it is licenced to hold 8640SCU, and is tenanted by custom feeders Allied Beef.
Vandyke was passed in on a vendor bid of $7.5 million, or $868/SCU, when it went to auction last month, and is for sale through Nutrien Harcourts Emerald.
SCU cost looks steady

Vandyke’s $7.5M fits into the long-held price range for efficient feedlots of $800-$1000/SCU, depending on quality of infrastructure, age and location.
“There’s a run on feedlots probably two years in every 10, and they’ve been trading in a very flat market for the past 18-24 months,” Herron Todd White national director agribusiness Tim Lane said.
Drought still grips pockets of eastern Australia, and Mr Lane said its impact has added water to the list of value determinants for feedlots.
“Because of the dry, water became the limiter in people’s ability to expand or maintain cattle numbers.
“People are a bit more circumspect about water reliability now.”
Mr Lane said drought boosted the need for SCUs as demand for custom feeding to finish cattle bolted on to demand from vertically integrated operations, and recent expansions by major operators have consolidated the feedlot sector’s capacity at current levels.
“We had a big run in feedlots a few years ago, and six sold in about 18 months.”
Recent sales started in 2015 with Bindaree Beef buying the Mulligan family’s Myola feedlot at North Star in northern NSW, and finished with the 15,000-head Sandalwood near Dalby on Queensland’s Darling Downs last year to Korean-based supermarket giant Lotte.
In the middle was Hancock Prospecting’s purchase of the Gunnee Feedlot near Inverell in northern NSW, and the 8000SCU Wagyu specialist Maydan near Warwick on the Darling Downs for $22M.
Glen Gowrie at Allora on the Darling Downs sold for $4.5M to Cliff Shelley, owner of the nearby Freestone feedlot, to add 2280SCU to his capacity.
Also, Smithfield Cattle Company bought Sapphire Feedlot near Goondiwindi for a rumoured $9.2M, with 6000SCU, and capacity to grow to 8700 head, or just over $1000/SCU.
Supplementing the sales were expansions on the Darling Downs, with the biggest being Mort & Co’s at Grassdale, Australian Country Choice’s at Opal Creek, and Stockyard’s at Kerwee.
“It’s hit its peak and filled up to what processors need, and drought management needs.”
“They’ve all shifted their cards in their deck, and there’s not a lot of overall demand left for feedlots.”
Vandyke Feedlot was passed in at $7.5M and is now offered for private sale. Photo: Nutrien Harcourts Emerald
Drought in NSW and Queensland pushed record numbers of cattle on to feed last year, as pastures and grazier-held fodder evaporated, and grain, much of it from SA and WA, flowed across the borders and its feedmills.
Water has emerged as the limiting factor, and a shortage during the drought hit feedlots large and small from Tamworth to the Queensland border.
It caused some to cease or reduce custom feeding, and others to cart water for stock, or both.
Former Sandalwood principal Kevin Roberts said water’s value alone was enough to underpin the price of an SCU in well-developed feedlots.
“If someone wanted to go and find a greenfield site and then go through the process and the cost of getting a licence to secure water and lots of it, it’s quite possible that $800-$1000 is cheap,” Mr Roberts said.
Stock a factor
WA is the market to watch, and its limit to growth appears to have nothing to do with access to water or affordable grain.
“WA is different; over there, it’s the lack of supply of cattle that’s the limiter,” Mr Lane said.
Grain Central understands WA is seeing record applications for feedlotting operations, albeit from a small base, with Harvest Road’s 40,000-head feedlot at Yathroo heading up the list as a major step in vertical integration for Twiggy Forrest’s Harvey Beef.
Feeding of sheep in confinement pens has come into its own in eastern Australia’s drought, but the sector does not have the same degree of regulation as beef feedlots, and is therefore difficult to value.
While sheep feedlots have kept many operations in NSW, and some in Queensland and South Australia, afloat during the drought, the market for them has had trouble finding its feet.
Mr Lane said opportunity feeding of lamb or cattle was likely to hold its place when seasons dictated, and commodity prices allowed.
“Whether its lamb or cattle, if you can run a couple of hundred head through your own operation by adding water and grain, you’re able to add value.”
Season turnaround
Vendors Maurice and Sharon Swain listed Kia Ora in 2016, and Mr Swain said they were looking for a change in lifestyle after drought featured in six of the past seven years.
The Swains have used Kia Ora’s feedlot and associated infrastructure to finish their own cattle bred on the 17,303-hectare property with Narran Lakes grazing and Barwon River frontage, as well as buy in stores.
Since January, the Swains have run down numbers to a bare minimum, but are now enjoying a fine season for cropping and pasture, as well as full dams and a flowing river.
“In January, it started to rain, and cattle prices went through the roof,” Mr Swain said.
“After harvest, it might be a better proposition if grain prices get cheap.”

Kia Ora has 5260ha of cropping country which has, seasons permitting, been used to grow barley and wheat for value-adding through the feedlot.
"We've had some cattle which we fed for 70 days for Woolworths, some on 100 days for Kilcoy, and some we were custom feeding."
The spread has worked well for the Swains, even when they were buying grain coming into northern NSW by rail and road in 2017-19, when drought burnt up any grain grown in the northern half of NSW.
Kia Ora is calling for expressions of interest by 30 August through Moree Real Estate.
Mirambee feedlot is 12 kilometres south-east of Dubbo, and listed last year with Ray White Rural NSW Dubbo.
Like Kia Ora, it has seen a remarkable turnaround in the season.
Mirambee covers 441ha, and comes with a 100-megalitre bore licence.
Its impressive improvements include a feedmill and 14 150-tonne silos.
Developments in WA
In WA, Harmony Agriculture and Food Co's WestBeef feedlot has a 5000SCU capacity, with approval to build to 7500SCY, and 900ha of cropping land.
Located at Burakin on the fringe of WA's wheatbelt, and adjoining pastoral country, WestBeef failed to sell on instruction from receivers following an EOI campaign by Colliers International which closed 16 April.
The feedlot is 250km north-east of Perth, and was bought in 2016 for $4.25 million as one of parent company Dalian Hesheng Holdings' first Australian assets.
The facility covers 1030ha, including more than 900ha of farming country.
The first beast is yet to be inducted into Kalimpa Feedlot, being offered for sale through CBRE Perth with Erim Downs, a 1970ha mixed farm with a 300ML groundwater entitlement.

Segunda ola de COVID está alterando la demanda doméstica de carnes

Jon Condon, August 7, 2020
THE second wave of COVID-related consumer demand being seen for red meat this week – most evident in Victoria and NSW, but gradually extending into other states – is pushing wholesale buying patterns in some unusual and even unique directions.
As it did back in April, domestic red meat trade is again shifting sharply back towards retail, at the expense of food service channels.
Reports of panic retail buying have again been seen in Victoria and other states this week, fuelled in part by concerns over food shortages on the back of the one-third reduction in Victorian processing operations from midnight tonight.
Woolworths has again enforced consumer buying limits in some states and chief executive Brad Banducci told ABC last night that the COVID uncertainty over the past couple of weeks had led to an elevated level of demand, particularly in red meat. He said the trend was not yet at the level it was in March and April, however.
Even in Queensland, where COVID is well under control, consumer buying of red meat, toilet paper and other 'essentials' is again rising sharply
Meat wholesalers are again seeing wild swings in customer demand, and in some cases are already shipping product into Victoria from Queensland, NSW and South Australia to cater for local pressure.
The result is some unusual and even unprecedented trends in the wholesale market, Beef Central was told.
While the food service sector showed some signs of recovery after earlier April/May closures, it is clear that a second major shift towards retail meat sales through supermarkets and independent butchers is occurring.
Food service wholesale customers remained 'incredibly cautious' about purchasing any volume of product, major meat wholesalers said.
"Nobody with a food outlet wants to get caught with large stocks of meat, if there is another wave of restaurant, hotel and café closures," one large multi-state operator said yesterday.
Portioning rooms, which specialise in taking whole primals and dividing them into ready-to-cook steak serve portions for restaurants, hotels and other food service operators, either remain closed or are operating at only a fraction of their normal throughput.
At the other end of the beef market, supermarkets and independent butchers are again experiencing a wave of demand for product, especially mince, steak cuts and easy-to-serve items, as consumers again start stockpiling food supplies.
A large Sydney retail butchery chain told Beef Central that with the second wave of COVID emerging, takings were again on the rise, and in fact had maintained a level above pre-COVID trading since the big spike in April.
One large multi-state wholesaler said trade this week was up 25pc from the previous seven days – being heavily driven by retail demand.

While food service demand remained very flat, the high level of meat trade into retail suggested that overall, domestic Australian beef consumption was rising.
“Everybody in retail is busy, from national supermarkets to independent butchers,” he said.
“Declining Australian beef production is certainly being reflected in lower exports, but arguably not at all in the domestic trade. If anything, domestic consumption has gone up in the past few months, due to COVID. I wouldn’t be surprised if domestic trade is currently accounting for well over 30 percent of all Australian beef production at present. That’s a level we haven’t seen in years,” he said.
Unusual winter barbecue cuts demand
A trend being seen in the wholesale market this year – for the first time ever, in one stakeholder’s opinion – was that the traditional mid-winter ‘sag’ in demand for grilling cuts, in favour of blades, knuckles and briskets used for slow cooking, had not occurred.
“For the first time in my career (more than 40 years) in wholesaling, we’ve seen cube rolls go up in price, in the middle of winter,” he said.
“Sweet cuts like cube roll and striploin have actually gone up in price over the past couple of months, whereas normally it is the cold weather cuts in highest demand. That’s because people are working from home, and have the time on their hands to barbecue more often – even in winter.”
He thought overall domestic red meat consumption at present was particularly high, because of the ‘stay-at-home’ factor, and the interest in cooking that had been generated as family members asked each other, “What’s for dinner.”
“Consumers continue to experiment, because they’re at home and have time on their hands. Brisket demand at present is very high, because the customer can throw a brisket in the smoker early in the work-day, look after it, and serve it for dinner that night. Normally brisk is only a Saturday or Sunday cut.”
Even some national supermarket outlets were for the first time stocking whole (rather than sliced) cube-rolls, tenderloins and briskets in their chilled cabinets, to service the rapid changes in demand seen recently.
“The big retail chains can’t pick their production up quickly enough to keep up with these spikes that have been seen – so offering whole primals is an easy solution,” the wholesaler said.
Cuts being re-valued
Another COVID market impact caused by the dramatic decline in food service demand has been in price recognition for particular cuts.
Tenderloins, for example – which are historically a favourite option in restaurants, hotels, conventions and catering – are for the first time in history being priced no higher than cube rolls on the domestic wholesale market, a large wholesale contact said.
“I’ve never seen it before – cube rolls and tenderloins of the same quality are level pegging in price at the moment, because of that lack of demand for tenders out of food service, and the shift back towards retail,” he said.
Tenderloins at wholesale this week were making anywhere from $15/kg for cow tenders to $30 for 100-day grainfed steer examples, while good grainfed cube rolls were making the same, or very similar prices.
“As a result of the flatness in food service, we’re selling more tenderloins back into retail than we have ever seen before,” the wholesaler said.

Varios

INDIA: reclaman mayores precauciones en mataderos

06 August 2020
In a letter sent to Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, 100 doctors associated with the WHO One Health initiative seek a ban on wet markets and closures of abattoirs that do not follow safety guidelines.
According to reporting in The Print, hundreds of doctors sent a letter to Harsh Vardhan demanding stricter meat industry regulations to avoid future pandemics.
The letter cites the likely origin of the COVID-19 pandemic: a wet market in Wuhan, China. The letter calls for a ban on such marketplaces due to their ability to spread deadly viruses.
The latter also calls for the closure of slaughterhouses that do not follow India’s Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) guidelines or established norms under India’s 2001 slaughterhouse rules.
“Several studies reported that banning the storage of live poultry in live markets at least for a short period of time for overnight drastically reduced the ability to isolate the avian influenza viruses by 84 percent compared with the standard procedures. Such studies show that a permanent ban on the live markets will help in the prevention of such zoonotic diseases,” the letter stated.

LIBANO explosion afectará el abastecimiento de alimentos

07 August 2020 The recent blast in Beirut destroyed Lebanon’s only large grain silo, and few alternative stocks are available.

According to reporting in Reuters, plans to build a second large grain silo in Lebanon's second largest port, Tripoli, were scuppered years ago due to lack of funding.
The explosion destroyed the 120,000-tonne capacity silo and disabled the port, which serves as Lebanon's main entry point for food imports. This means that buyers will have to turn to smaller, privately-owned storage facilities for grain purchases, raising concerns about food supplies.
Lebanon imports nearly all of its wheat. "There are smaller storage sites within the private sector millers because they have to store wheat before it is milled into flour. In terms of grain silos, that was the only major one," says Maurice Saade, the FAO representative in Lebanon.
With banks in crisis, a collapsing currency and one of the world's biggest debt burdens, Economy Minister Raoul Nehme has said Lebanon had "very limited" resources to deal with the disaster, which by some estimates may have cost the nation up to $15 billion.
The country's private millers, around eight in total, will have to navigate new logistics fast for the supply chain to run smoothly, even after some of them suffered damage from the blast. This means trucking wheat to nearby warehouses at a time when most of the traffic meant for Beirut, not just wheat, will also be diverted to Tripoli.
Lebanon's government also did not keep a strategic reserve of grains.

EMPRESARIAS

Minerva adquiere frigorífico colombiano por US$ 14 millones

Fonte: Valor Econômico.This post was published on 6 de agosto de 2020
Maior exportadora de carne bovina da América do Sul, a brasileira Minerva Foods deu mais um passo para expandir a atuação na região. O grupo fechou hoje um acordo para a aquisição do frigorífico colombiano Vijagual, apurou o Valor. A compra sairá por US$ 14 milhões. Com isso, a companhia brasileira dobra a capacidade no país.
O montante é pequeno e não deve afetar a trajetória de redução do endividamento da empresa brasileira.
Além do valor pouco relevante para o porte do empresa brasileira — que fatura mais de R$ 19 bilhões por ano —, o pagamento será dilatado no tempo.
Do total de US$ 14 milhões (cerca de R$ 70 milhões), a maior parte não será paga imediatamente. O Valor apurou que US$ 6 milhões se referem a dívidas do Vijagual que a Minerva assumirá. O restante será pago aos atuais proprietários em até cinco anos.
Com capacidade para abater 700 de bovinos por dia, o frigorífico colombiano ampliará a produção da Minerva no país em 93%.
Fontes de mercado estimam que a compra tenha saído por um múltiplo (relação entre o valor de empresa e o Ebitda) de 4 vezes.
Como a intenção é converter a unidade para a exportação, uma atividade mais rentável, a aquisição pode ficar relativamente mais barata, dado o potencial de crescimento do faturamento e geração de caixa.
Nesse cenário, o múltiplo implícito da aquisição poderia ser de apenas 3 vezes, disse outra fonte, estimando receita de US$ 140 milhões em 2021 para o frigorífico adquirido.

Paraguay: anunciaron la construcción de un frigorífico de última generación

06/08/2020 - 2:41 PM
La inversión estará a cargo de dos de los ganaderos más grandes del país, uno de ellos el expresidente Horacio Cartes.
Dos de los ganaderos más grandes de Paraguay, Horacio Cartes (expresidente de la República) y Maris Llorens (expropietaria de Frigomerc, actualmente de Athena Foods) anunciaron la construcción de una planta frigorífica para la faena de bovinos que estaría operativa a principios del 2022.
La planta, que se ubicará en el bajo Chaco a pocos kilómetros de Asunción, implica una inversión de US$ 50 a US$ 60 millones y tendrá una capacidad de procesar entre 800 a 1000 bovinos por día, según confirmó Maris Llorens al medio paraguayo Valor Agro.
Llorens destacó que será un frigorífico "de última generación, moderno y construido con todas las normas dictadas sobre bienestar animal", y agregó: "Es una inversión que dará trabajo a mucha gente, y generará un desarrollo económico, social y ganadero".
El inicio de las obras está previsto para finales de este año, y los propietarios pretenden alcanzar las habilitaciones para todos los mercados disponibles por el país.
Complejo. Actualmente en Paraguay hay diez plantas realizando faenas para la exportación de carne. En julio se procesaron 157.279 cabezas, una baja del 6,2% en comparación con igual mes del año pasado y una caída del 3,5% frente a la actividad de junio del 2020.
Entre enero y julio, la actividad industrial suma 1.047.404 animales, un aumento del 6,2% frente al periodo de enero a julio del 2019, cuando se procesaron 986.675 cabezas.