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GLOBAL

Comercio Mundial de Productos Agropecuarios se mantiene firme

07 December 2020

Between a global pandemic and politically turbulent climate, livestock industries have eagerly looked toward international policies and trade.

Now that 2020 has nearly come to an end, specialists in policy, trade and economics can evaluate trends and offer a future outlook, writes Jaclyn Krymowski for Global Ag Media.

As part of the virtual Agriculture Policy and Outlook Conference put on by The Ohio State University College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Dr. Ian Sheldon, professor and Andersons Chair of Agricultural Marketing, Trade and Policy at Ohio State, addressed some of these concerns.

2020 Overview

In April 2020, the World Trade Organization (WTO) estimated global trade would be impacted between 13% to 32% due to the pandemic. Fortunately, neither of those were the case. The current WTO forecast is for total 2020 global trade decline to be only about 9.2% with an anticipated rise next year.

Without the pandemic, economists were expecting trade to remain consistent on its steady tick up. Fortunately, the largest impact of the pandemic happened fairly immediately from March to May then a slow recovery began.

“There’s still a considerable amount of uncertainty about the trajectory of trade for the rest of 2020 into 2021,” Sheldon explained. “Especially now, we’re observing a resurgence of COVID-19 both here in North America and in Europe.”

Currently, WTO estimates trade to rebound by 7.2% in 2021, allowing for variations in exports and imports of various nations. For example, North American imports saw an 8.7% decline this year but are anticipated to rebound 6.7% in 2021.

Government impact

World governments play a key role in how global trade will continue to play out moving forward. Ongoing lockdowns could have a significant negative impact on gross domestic product (GDP) moving into 2021.

“It’s very important to realize that macroeconomic policy here in the U.S., in the European Union and elsewhere is pretty critical to mitigating the impact of the pandemic, both on trade and changes in GDP,” said Sheldon. “Trade policy is going to be critical as we come out the other side of the pandemic.”

Another factor in the hands of government is how funds will be spent. Spending on foreign policy and unemployment rates alone could reduce trade by up to 4%.

The release of a vaccine will be another big factor in global trade. By simply boosting confidence, this could raise GDP growth by 1% to 2% and global trade by 3% in 2021, according to Sheldon.

An unexpected impact could come from the advent of webinar technology. This could be a positive moving forward, creating a more connected global trade system.

Then, now and the future

Early in the year, the WTO and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) expressed concern about a negative impact on international agriculture trade due to export restrictions and stockpiling. Fortunately, both scenarios came to pass very quickly. In fact, agricultural trade proved to be resilient with global exports rising by 2%.

“Food is essential to humans,” Sheldon said explaining these numbers. “Economists talk about the demand for food as relatively income inelastic.”

While the pandemic intensified already downward pressure on food prices, there is no evidence to suggest it will create a food security crisis. Globally, there seems to be enough foodstuffs available despite more families pushed to food insecurity in certain regions due to multiple factors. Overall, the global trade forecast looks very positive both this year and for moving forward into 2021.

“The monthly data show that the change in exports and imports has not been that different from 2019,” said Sheldon.

Certain trade targets between nations and regions were down. For example, the US Phase One trade deal with China is 35% below its cumulative target. Sheldon said there is still an optimistic target for growth of imports by China.

With the US Biden administration coming in, Sheldon expects coalition with partners such as the EU and Japan to continue to set trade rules for China similar to the Trump administration. Differences might be more support for reforms to WTO rules.

“In terms of tariffs, I think we’re most likely to see a more targeted use of tariffs with a specific focus where there’s violation of trade rules by our trading partners,” he said, further noting a push to end EU tariffs on steel.



Overall, Sheldon and many experts are optimistic about trade moving forward.

Barreras y medidas sanitarias afectan el comercio mundial de carnes bovinas

Beef Central, December 8, 2020 Source: MLA

GLOBAL trade access barriers around Foot & Mouth Disease and BSE that once sheltered Australian exports from greater competition have largely dissolved over the past year or two, heightening challenges for Australian exports across Asia.

Across Asia, market access is redefining the competitive landscape in high-value and commodity beef markets.

Australian beef is facing heightened competitive pressure at a time when domestic supplies are tight and Australian cattle prices are increasingly out of kilter with global markets. Some of these shifts are short-term and temporary, while others are part of a longer-term structural transition in the makeup of Asian imported beef markets.

US ramping up shipments to China

Trans-pacific US exports to North Asia have faced challenges this year. Beef shipments slowed as plants shuttered during the first wave of COVID-19; then carriers excessively blanked sailings to reduce spare capacity; and, more recently, reefer container shortages and maxed-out freight capacity have hamstrung those trying to get boxes out of west coast ports.

That said, in recent weeks, US beef shipments to China have been ramping up, averaging in excess of 2400 tonnes (shipped weight) per week through November. For the year-to-date, the US has shipped 31,300t of beef to China and, according to the USDA, US exporters had 26,800t in outstanding orders yet to be dispatched as of the end of November.

While US beef exports to China are still relatively minor compared to Australia's footprint in the market (181,500t for the year-to-November), it reflects a significant increase from the 10,500t recorded in 2019 and comes at a time when Australia is navigating restricted technical access following recent plant suspensions.

Emerging competition from the US in the premium beef segment in China also coincides with heightened supply and price pressure from South America in the commodity beef market.

US beef exports to China were advanced by President Trump's Phase 1 trade deal, which wound back tariffs applied during the trade war and permitted hormone treated beef (but not beta-agonist treated product) into the market.

While Chinese purchases of US goods under the Phase 1 agreement have massively undershot targets this year, in the second half of 2020 beef has been one category to meet or exceed expectations. The future of this trade will largely hinge on the broader US-China political and economic relationship and how it is shaped by US trade policy under a new Biden administration.

A tale of two safeguards

On another front, Australia triggered its beef safeguard into Korea on 24 November, raising the applied tariff from 21.3pc to 30pc through to the end of 2020. While the safeguard was triggered with only a month of the year outstanding, it remains disruptive for chilled product entering established retail and foodservice channels. For the rest of the year, the tariff advantage of US beef (under KORUS) over Australian product (under KAFTA) will increase from 5.3pc to 14pc.

However, in Japan, the conditions are set for the inverse scenario to unfold. Under the US-Japan deal on agriculture, signed at the end of 2019, the US was awarded equivalent tariff access to what was granted to CPTPP members, although with a smaller country-specific safeguard of 242,000t in the current Japanese financial year (ending 31 March).

As of early November (or about 61pc through the financial year), the US had filled 67pc of its safeguard. If current utilisation rates continue, the US may trigger its safeguard with about a month of the financial year to go, causing the applied tariff to jump from 25.8pc to 38.5pc.

In contrast, the shared Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Japan beef safeguard, which Australia operates in, is only 34pc utilised.

Just as the US will be the main beneficiary of Australia triggering its Korea beef safeguard, Australia will potentially enjoy an access advantage if the US triggers its Japan beef safeguard.

South America encroaching on Asia

The rapid increase in beef shipments from Brazil and Argentina into China – thanks, largely, to a spike in protein demand brought about by African Swine Fever in China and increased establishment approvals in South America – has received widespread coverage in the last couple of years.

However, other Asian markets have also recorded increased beef imports from South America – trade which has traditionally been restricted due to animal health reasons, notably the foot and mouth disease status in key countries.



Taiwan is a quiet achiever when it comes to Australian beef exports, consistently consuming about 30,000t per year. Australian beef exports to Taiwan primarily consist of grassfed shin shank and blade, but also some higher value loin cuts which compete with US product.

Paraguay, one of the few countries to maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan, struck a deal with the country in 2018 for tariff-free beef access (Australia and most other countries face a most-favoured nation tariff of NT\$10/kg). Taiwanese imports of beef from Paraguay have almost doubled so far this year to 17,000t over the January-to-September period (not far behind Australia's share in the market).

Paraguay has emerged as a cost-competitive supplier of frozen grassfed primals, but it also shipped its first chilled product into Taiwan this year (although just 30 tonnes so far).

Brazil gained access, albeit heavily restricted, to Indonesia just over a year ago and shipped 3500t at the end of 2019. After a subsequent six-month hiatus, Indonesia imported 2500t of Brazilian beef in the September quarter. If Chinese demand were to stall and Indonesia were to allocate more import permits, beef shipments from Brazil could quickly pivot into this emerging market.

Elsewhere in South-East Asia, Brazilian beef shipments into the Philippines have increased 18pc so far this year to 33,300t over the January-to-October period. Exports to Singapore and Malaysia are up 4pc and 7pc, at 17,100t and 5200t respectively.

Uruguay and Patagonia (the region in Argentina recognised as FMD-free without vaccination) gained beef access to the high-value Japan market in 2019 and 2018, respectively. Uruguay has expanded its footprint in Japan this year to just over 2000t over the January-to-October period, but its share of the import market remains just 0.4pc. Patagonia is not the engine of Argentina's beef sector and only minor shipments (9 tonnes so far this year) to Japan have subsequently materialised under the new access.

Global beef suppliers pivot to Asia

In 2010, Australia held a fairly comfortable 41pc share of a broader Asia-Pacific imported beef market thanks to steady demand, an exportable surplus, unrivalled animal health status, strong reputation and proximity to market (Australia's share peaked at 59pc in 2005 when the US was locked out of Japan and Korea due to BSE).

These fundamentals have remained largely intact over the last decade, however, Asia's appetite for meat and high quality beef has grown beyond Australia's capability, particularly following the explosive import growth from China over the last three years.

Meanwhile, animal health barriers are now less of an obstacle for Australia's competitors. For example the US no longer faces BSE-related restrictions in Japan, Korea and China; and South America has overcome FMD related trade bans in some markets.

This has coincided with South American beef producers facing subdued demand in their domestic and traditional export markets (Europe, the Middle East and Russia).

While Australia has increased its volume and share of exports to Asia Pacific (75pc in 2019 and 2020), its share of the regional import market has receded from a peak of 59pc in 2005 to 21pc so far this year. Brazil has emerged, for the first time, to be the largest supplier into the region (although this is dominated by trade to China).

Despite the increasingly crowded global beef trade environment, Australia is forecast to remain a large and key player in Asian markets – benefiting from strong consumer appeal and trust built over many years.

However, evolving market access arrangements will continue to be key in shaping the competitive landscape. This means the Australian beef supply chain must continue to focus on removing regulatory and red tape costs, as well as tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, while positioning itself as a premium, safe and high quality supplier in order to stay ahead of encroaching competition across the region.

CHINA

Medios chinos sugieren el Coronavirus ingresó a través del Puerto de Wuhan

The Wuhan Hygiene Emergency Response Team drives a vehicle as they leave the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in the city of Wuhan, in Hubei Province on January 11, 2020.

Chinese state media outlet the Global Times released a new editorial on Sunday strongly suggesting the covid-19 pandemic, which started in the city of Wuhan, may have been caused by frozen meat imported from overseas. The suggestion is just the latest volley in a dispute over whether the Chinese government could have done more to stop the pandemic that has so far sickened at least 67.1 million people and killed more than 1.53 million worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Chinese state media has been reporting since at least June that coronavirus has been found on frozen meat and seafood imported from other countries. But this is the first time that any state media outlet has made the connection so explicit, while admitting that there's no conclusive proof the virus was introduced to Wuhan in this way.



“Although it might be too early to jump to conclusions, the possibility that the coronavirus was passed on from cold-chain products into Wuhan, or more specifically, to the Huanan wet market, where the sale of frozen products was once prevalent, cannot be ruled out,” the new Global Times editorial reads.

The Global Times spoke with a number of people in the area of the Huanan wet market who insist that wild animals were incredibly rare in the area but that frozen seafood was incredibly common. And some unnamed sources in Wuhan even blame Americans as the original source of the virus in 2019.

Now, almost every Wuhan local the Global Times reporters talked to tends to believe Wuhan was “wronged” by the outside world for being called the “origin of the coronavirus.”

It is quite common among those interviewed who believe that the virus was brought by the Americans during the Military World Games held in Wuhan in October 2019. And the frequent outbreaks originating from imported cold-chain products since June in many places in China also beg the question among Wuhan locals if the virus was transmitted to Wuhan in this way.

The hypothesis was also supported by experts. Wu Zunyou, the chief epidemiologist of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention said that in retrospect of the early outbreak in Wuhan, patients came mainly from the frozen seafood area.

The editorial lists frozen food products from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Uruguay, among a host of others, as possible carriers of the coronavirus into China. The article also points to reports in Italy that predate the current pandemic, suggesting covid-19 may have originated in that country. The article itself points out that the evidence is flimsy, but clearly the idea is to sow doubt about the origin of the virus rather than reach a solid conclusion.

The Chinese government has come under immense pressure from some governments, most notably the U.S. and Australia, for not doing more to contain the virus when it was first detected in late December of 2019. Australia called for an international investigation into the origins of the virus, something that prompted fierce diplomatic backlash from Beijing.

It’s still unclear what precisely caused the covid-19 pandemic to emerge from Wuhan in late 2019, and we may never have a definitive answer. Our best guess right now is still a wild animal in Wuhan who gave the coronavirus to a human. But you can bet that as the New Cold War rages, we can see plenty more articles like this from Chinese state media like the Global Times.

China suspende importaciones de 6 establecimientos australianos

08 December 2020

China has suspended imports of beef from Australia’s Meramist Pty Ltd from 7 December.

According to Reuters, Maramist is the sixth beef supplier to face a suspension from China, a major importer of Australian beef.

China, which did not say why it took the latest decision, has already banned imports from five other Australian beef suppliers this year, citing reasons that have included issues with labelling and health certificates.

Australia’s ties with top trade partner China, already strained, significantly deteriorated after Canberra called for an enquiry into the origins of the coronavirus.

China stopped receiving applications and registration for beef exports from the Meramist plant from 7 December, China’s General Administration of Customs said in a notice on its website, without giving a reason.

The company could not immediately be reached for comment.

In May, China banned imports from four of Australia’s largest meat processors citing issues with labelling and health certificates. In August, it suspended imports from a fifth plant.

Informan que encuentran trazas de COVID en embalajes de carne de Brasil y Uruguay

Por: Agência EFE 07/12/2020

Nos últimos meses, o país asiático detectou vestígios do vírus em embalagens de produtos refrigerados, vários deles da América Latina, levando Pequim a tornar mais rígidas as regulamentações para importação

A China informou hoje (7/12) que voltou a encontrar vestígios do novo coronavírus em embalagens de produtos congelados importados do Brasil e do Uruguai, como relatado pelas autoridades sanitárias da cidade de Wuhan, no centro do país.

Os vestígios do coronavírus nas embalagens de carne suína brasileira e bovina uruguaia congeladas apareceram após testes de ácido nucléico realizados no último sábado naquela cidade, informou a comissão local de saúde em nota.

No caso da carne suína brasileira, o órgão indica que foram detectados vestígios do novo coronavírus em embalagens de um lote que entrou na cidade de Xangai no dia 28 de junho e posteriormente foi transportado para Wuhan no dia 27 de julho.



Quanto a carne bovina uruguaia, a exportadora é a Breeders and Packers Uruguay, cujo lote afetado chegou primeiro na Malásia e desde 2 de março estava armazenado na cidade chinesa de Tianjin.

Este é o primeiro caso de vestígios do vírus em embalagens de alimentos congelados importados do Uruguai a ser detectado na China.

As autoridades locais indicaram que foram tomadas medidas para suspender a venda da carne afetada e que centenas de transportadores testaram negativo para covid-19.

Fontes da Embaixada do Uruguai na China explicaram à Agência Efe que se trata de um lote embalado em dezembro de 2019 que chegou ao gigante asiático meses antes do país sul-americano registrar seus primeiros casos de covid-19, então o problema seria “de manejo dos depósitos e não da origem”.

“Está em jogo a imagem dos produtos uruguaiois. É muito irresponsável tentar imputar responsabilidades ao Uruguai”, assinalaram as mesmas fontes e acrescentaram que “é muito provável que se trate de um caso de contaminação cruzada” e que tenha ocorrido em território chinês.

Nos últimos meses, o país asiático detectou vestígios do novo coronavírus em várias embalagens de produtos refrigerados, vários deles da América Latina, levando Pequim a tornar mais rígidas as regulamentações para importação de produtos congelados.

China importa 775 mil toneladas a lo largo de noviembre

09/12/2020

Supone un crecimiento del 1,8% respecto a octubre

China importó 775.000 toneladas de carne en noviembre, según los datos de aduanas el lunes, un poco más que el mes anterior, ya que los compradores se abastecieron para los meses de invierno, la temporada alta de demanda de China.

Las importaciones aumentaron un 1,8% desde las 761.000 toneladas de octubre, pero muy por debajo del récord de casi 1 millón de toneladas de julio, según mostraba los datos de la Administración General de Aduanas.

A falta del mes de diciembre, China lleva importadas un total de 8,95 millones de t de carne, un 63% más que en 2019.

Los envíos se han ralentizado en los últimos meses a medida que el país reconstruye su censo porcino y se imponen nuevas medidas para detectar la presencia de coronavirus en los productos importados.

BRASIL

Retroceso en los precios del ganado bovino

Sexta-feira, 11 de dezembro de 2020 -Devido às fortes quedas na arroba do boi gordo ao longo dessa semana, boa parte das indústrias paulistas, com escalas mais confortáveis, ficaram fora das compras na manhã da última quinta-feira (10/12). Os frigoríficos ativos abriram o mercado derrubando os preços mais uma vez.

Segundo levantamento da Scot Consultoria, na comparação diária, a queda foi de R\$3,00/@, e o boi gordo ficou cotado em R\$260,00/@, preço bruto e à vista, R\$259,50/@ com desconto do Senar e R\$256,00/@ com desconto do Senar e Funrural.

Os preços da vaca e da novilha gordas caíram R\$2,00/@, cotadas em R\$246,00/@ e R\$258,00/@, respectivamente, preços brutos e à vista.

Faena de bovinos subió 10 por ciento en el tercer trimestre de2020

Por: Portal DBO 10/12/2020

Segundo o IBGE, os 7,69 milhões de bovinos abatidos no período foi o menor resultado para um terceiro trimestre desde 2016

O Brasil registrou o abate de 7,69 milhões de bovinos sob algum tipo de serviço de inspeção sanitária no terceiro trimestre de 2020, queda de 9,5% na comparação com igual período de 2019. Em relação ao segundo trimestre de 2020, houve alta de 4,6%. Os dados fazem parte da Pesquisa Trimestral do Abate de Animais divulgada nesta quinta-feira (10/12) pelo Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE).

Segundo o Instituto, o resultado foi o menor para um terceiro trimestre desde 2016. “A restrição da oferta de animais para abate, principalmente de fêmeas, segue desde o início de 2020. Apesar da retração da atividade na comparação anual, nos meses de julho e agosto houve recordes para a exportação de carne bovina in natura”, informa em nota o órgão. Na comparação mensal, agosto apresentou a maior queda em relação à 2019, com menos 12,4% de cabeças abatidas.

O abate de 806,62 mil de bovinos a menos no 3º trimestre de 2020 em relação ao mesmo período do ano anterior, foi impulsionado por reduções em 22 das 27 Unidades da Federação (UFs). Entre aquelas com participação acima de 1,0%, as reduções mais significativas ocorreram em Mato Grosso (-116,44 mil cabeças), Minas Gerais (-95,79 mil cabeças), Mato Grosso do Sul (-89,00 mil cabeças), Rondônia (-78,33



mil cabeças), Bahia (-72,51 mil cabeças), Pará (-69,52 mil cabeças), São Paulo (-68,51 mil cabeças), Tocantins (-54,24 mil cabeças), Goiás (-50,47 mil cabeças) e Maranhão (-46,19 mil cabeças). Por outro lado, as maiores variações positivas ocorreram em Santa Catarina (+21,46 mil cabeças) e Rio Grande do Sul (+4,55 mil cabeças).

Mato Grosso continua liderando o abate de bovinos, com 18,4% da participação nacional, seguido por Mato Grosso do Sul (11,1%) e São Paulo (10,5%).

Precios de reproductores experimentaron un importante aumento en 2020

10/12/2020 Adriano Barbosa, um dos principais profissionais do setor, falou no DBO Entrevista sobre o comportamento do mercado de remates e as perspectivas para 2021. Confira

O ano de 2020 foi atípico. A pandemia do novo coronavírus forçou o distanciamento social e paralisou todos os eventos com público. No entanto, o setor de leilões de animais não sofreu abalos. Pelo contrário, o que se viu nesse ano foi um mercado superaquecido.

Uma prévia do Anuário DBO 2021: só o mercado de touros teve um crescimento de 35%. (Os dados fechados estarão no Anuário, nas mãos dos assinantes no final de janeiro). Para se ter uma ideia, no Anuário 2019, o crescimento ante 2018 foi de 13%, considerando as médias por lote, num mercado que movimentou R\$ 681,2 milhões, incluindo machos e fêmeas. Barbosa vai até um pouco além da estimativa.

“O reprodutor valorizou, em média, cerca de 50% este ano. Se considerarmos a média do lote de R\$ 10 mil como ponto de equilíbrio em 2019, podemos considerar que este ano a média seria por volta R\$ 15 mil”, diz o campo-grandense Adriano Barbosa, um dos principais leiloeiros de gado do Brasil.

Barbosa foi o convidado do programa DBO Entrevista desta quarta-feira (9/12). Ele atua no setor há cerca de duas décadas, reconhecido como um dos profissionais que fez a sua história no comando dos mais importantes leilões, principalmente de touros no Centro-Oeste do País. À DBO, o leiloeiro falou sobre o comportamento do setor num ano tão especial para a pecuária, que teve preços históricos por conta da demanda internacional, o que elevou a valorização do boi gordo, vaca, matriz e bezerras e, conseqüentemente, dos animais de genética de ponta, como os touros e as matrizes PO.

Adriano Barbosa, de Campo Grande (MS) e um dos mais respeitados leiloeiros de gado do Brasil

Além da escalada no mercado de leilões, o mercado teve maior participação de investidores.

“Com os juros em queda, os investidores que estavam com o dinheiro parado no mercado financeiro viram oportunidades de apostar na pecuária. Então teve investidor do mercado capitais que comprou matriz PO este ano”, afirma Barbosa.

Valorização média do reprodutor, no acumulado do ano, é de 35%. Foto: Reprodução Agropecuária Rodrigues da Cunha

Dinâmica digital

Apesar de já possuir transmissões virtuais há muito tempo, ainda assim, o formato presencial era a realidade da maior parte dos leilões de gado. No ano passado, dos 451 remates de raças zebuínas que venderam genética para corte, 202 foram virtuais. Isso significou 44,8% à distância e o restante presenciais.

“Mas nesse ano de 2020, com a pandemia, os leilões tiveram de ser na sua grande maioria virtuais. Mas mas isso já fazia parte de uma tendência”, diz Barbosa.

Mesmo os leilões mais clássicos, os quais são palcos para a comercialização de animais de maior valor agregado, aprenderam a lidar com a nova onda da transmissão digital e deve seguir firme, segundo Barbosa.

Ele lembra que foi um dos primeiros leiloeiros a desbravar a comercialização de animais de genética virtualmente, há cerca de 30 anos, pela tevê. Hoje, além da televisão, a própria internet com transmissões ao vivo, troca de mensagens instantâneas e a influência das redes sociais deram um novo tom aos remates. “Foi um ano esquisito, mas um ano memorável para a pecuária brasileira, e acabou consolidando a transmissão virtual”.

Brasil promete neutralizar las emisiones de gases efecto invernadero en 2060

Por: Agência Brasil 09/12/2020

Segundo o ministro Ricardo Salles, se o Brasil receber verbas anuais de US\$ 10 bilhões para projetos de preservação ambiental já a partir de 2021, o prazo poderá ser antecipado

Anúncio da nova meta foi feito pelo ministro do Meio Ambiente, Ricardo Salles. Foto: José Cruz/Agência Brasil

A nova meta do Brasil no Acordo de Paris, a chamada Contribuição Nacional Determinada (NDC, da sigla em inglês), será a neutralidade nas emissões de gases do efeito estufa até 2060. O anúncio foi feito na noite desta terça-feira (8/12) pelo Ministro do Meio Ambiente, Ricardo Salles.

“A nossa contribuição nacional determinada a ser apresentada, agora que aprovada pelo governo brasileiro, reafirmando os nossos compromissos, colocando o compromisso brasileiro com a neutralidade de emissões até 2060. E destacando também a possibilidade de este prazo ser reduzido consoante sejam



implementados os mecanismos de mercado previstos no Acordo de Paris”, afirmou Salles após reunião do Comitê Interministerial sobre Mudança do Clima, no Palácio do Planalto. Ele estava acompanhado dos ministros Ernesto Araújo (Relações Exteriores), Teresa Cristina (Agricultura) e Marcos Pontes (Ciência e Tecnologia), que fazem parte do comitê.

Neutralizar a emissão de gases de efeito estufa, segundo o Acordo de Paris, significa mudar a matriz energética para fontes sustentáveis que não dependem de queima de combustíveis fósseis e que façam com que o clima não exceda a média atual em 1.5 grau Celsius (estimativa agressiva) ou 2.0 graus Celsius (estimativa conservadora). É uma mudança na economia, eliminando combustíveis fósseis e outras fontes de emissões de gás carbônico onde for possível nos setores de transporte, geração de energia e na indústria. Para outras fontes, a cada tonelada de gás carbônico emitida, uma tonelada deve ser compensada com medidas de proteção climática, com o plantio de árvores, por exemplo.

A NDC ratificada pelo governo brasileiro, em vigor desde 2015, previa que até 2025 as emissões de gases de efeito estufa seriam reduzidas a 37% em relação a 2005, ano em que o país emitiu aproximadamente 2,1 bilhões de toneladas de gás carbônico. Para 2030, a meta seria uma redução de 43%.

Ainda de acordo com Salles, durante o pronunciamento no Palácio do Planalto, esse prazo de neutralidade até 2060 poderá ser antecipado, desde que o Brasil receba verbas anuais de US\$ 10 bilhões para projetos de preservação ambiental já a partir de 2021. Essas verbas são contribuições financeiras de nações desenvolvidas para o atingimento das metas previstas no acordo do clima.

“Em anexo à nossa NDC, nas questões do questionário que vai em anexo, nós explicitamos a forma que entendemos ser necessária, do ponto de vista de crédito e mercado, para o recebimento dos recursos. Recebimento este que pode ser através dos mecanismos do artigo 6º do Acordo de Paris, e do programa já em funcionamento do governo federal, de pagamento por serviços ambientais, o Floresta+, à razão de US\$ 10 bilhões por ano, a partir do ano que vem. Portanto, em havendo o recebimento, neste fluxo, de recursos financeiros para estas destinações, nós consideraremos a hipótese de tornar o nosso compromisso de neutralidade, hoje assumido para 2060, em prazo anterior”, afirmou o ministro. Ele não informou, no entanto, em quanto poderia ser reduzido o prazo da nova meta, que dependerá de avaliações posteriores, de acordo com a aplicação dos recursos.

A chamada “neutralidade carbônica” a ser buscada pelo governo brasileiro é a mesma meta definida, em setembro, pela China, que é o maior emissor mundial de gases do efeito estufa. O Brasil figura como o sexto maior emissor de gases poluentes na atmosfera.

Acordo de Paris

Em 2015, o Brasil se juntou a mais de 190 países que integram a Convenção-Quadro das Nações Unidas sobre Mudança do Clima na assinatura do chamado Acordo de Paris. Pelo acordo, que foi resultado de mais de 20 anos de negociação, as nações definiram objetivos de longo prazo para limitar o aquecimento da temperatura global em níveis abaixo de dois graus Celsius, se possível a 1,5 grau, até o final deste século. A partir dos compromissos do Acordo de Paris, o Brasil definiu a sua NDC.

A meta considera os níveis pré-revolução industrial (1750) implementada a partir de 2020. A redução significativa do aquecimento global e o cumprimento dos compromissos do Acordo de Paris ainda estão entre as metas dos Objetivos do Desenvolvimento Sustentável (ODS), com o qual o Brasil também se comprometeu até 2030.

Dólar cayó a menor nivel desde junio

Por: Agência Brasil 10/12/2020

Bolsa subiu e encerrou no nível mais alto desde fevereiro

Uma combinação de otimismo externo com ações tomadas pelo Banco Central (BC) fez o dólar desabar nesta quinta-feira (10/12) e fechar no valor mais baixo desde junho. A bolsa de valores superou os 115 mil pontos e renovou o nível máximo desde fevereiro.

O dólar comercial fechou o dia vendido a R\$ 5,038, com recuo de R\$ 0,134 (-2,6%). Depois de operar próxima da estabilidade durante a manhã, a cotação firmou a tendência de queda ao longo da tarde. A divisa está no menor nível desde 10 de junho, quando tinha fechado a R\$ 4,93.

No mercado de ações, o dia foi marcado pela euforia. O índice Ibovespa, da B3, encerrou esta quinta aos 115.038 pontos, com alta de 1,8%. O indicador está no maior nível desde 19 de fevereiro, quando tinha encerrado em torno dos 116,5 mil pontos.

Além do otimismo no mercado internacional, com avanços nas vacinas contra a covid-19, o mercado refletiu medidas do Banco Central no dia seguinte à reunião do Comitê de Política Monetária (Copom), que manteve os juros básicos da economia em 2% ao ano.

Em nota divulgada após a reunião, o Copom informou que trabalha com inflação de 3,4% em 2021 num cenário em que os juros comecem a subir para 3% ao ano no decorrer do próximo ano. Taxas mais altas tornam países emergentes, como o Brasil, mais atrativos para os investidores estrangeiros, pressionando o dólar para baixo.



Paralelamente, o BC está ampliando a oferta de swaps cambiais, que funcionam como venda de dólares no mercado futuro, em dezembro. Hoje, a autoridade monetária vendeu US\$ 800 milhões de contratos novos. Caso o ritmo seja mantido, o BC pode encerrar o mês tendo vendido US\$ 9,6 bilhões a mais que os contratos que vencerão em janeiro.

Os swaps estão sendo vendidos para reduzir a demanda de bancos que estão comprando dólares perto do fim do ano.

URUGUAY

Mercado de gordo dinámico y con precios al alza

por Cecilia Pattarinodiciembre 9, 2020

Con una menor oferta de ganados de pasto prontos y la faena de ganados de corral finalizando, la industria muestra interés tanto por novillos como por vacas y propone mayores valores.

Por los mejores novillos hay plantas que pagan entre US\$ 3 y US\$ 3,05 por kilo en cuarta balanza, mientras que la mayoría de los negocios se concretan entre US\$ 2,90 y US\$ 3. La vaca gorda cotiza en el eje de los US\$ 2,80, pudiéndose lograr algún centavo más por ganados pesados y especiales. Los negocios concretados por vaquillonas se ubican en el entorno de los US\$ 2,85 por kilo. Las entradas a planta se acortaron y son de aproximadamente una semana.

La situación climática cambió y la oferta de ganado se redujo. Aunque el panorama forrajero es dispar por zonas del país, en general las precipitaciones dieron alivio a los productores y margen de maniobra para retener a la espera de mejores precios.

La baja del precio de la carne colabora para menores incrementos del IPC

09/12/2020 - En 2020 el precio de la carne vacuna registró una disminución de 2,89 %

En el transcurso del 2020, el precio de la carne vacuna registró una disminución de 2,89 %, como consecuencia de la reducción de precio en la mayoría de los cortes, principalmente en el asado de tira (-15,16 %) y falda (-6,94 %).

Por su parte, el precio de la carne aviar registró una baja de 0,34 % y el de la porcina aumentó en promedio 9,86 %.

En el mes de noviembre se destaca una disminución de 0,28 % respecto al mes anterior, en el precio de la carne vacuna. En cambio, el precio de la carne aviar no presentó variaciones significativas y el precio de la carne porcina registró un incremento de 0,18 % en el mismo período.

De acuerdo con los datos del Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE) en noviembre el Índice de Precios al Consumo (IPC) registró una variación mensual de 0,28% y una variación acumulada anual de 9,62 %.

China dice haber encontrado coronavirus en carne vacuna congelada uruguaya

07/12/2020 Fue exportada a China antes de que hubiera casos declarados de covid-19 en Uruguay EUROCARNE | Global Times, un medio estatal de noticias en inglés del gobierno chino, ha anunciado la detección de coronavirus en los envases de cartón en los que viajan y se comercializa la carne procedente de Uruguay y Brasil. El informe cita la prueba realizada por el Centro para el Control de Enfermedades (CDC) en Wuhan. Los paquetes de carne se importaron para la venta en Wuhan, la capital regional de la provincia central de Hubei, la zona cero donde se dieron los primeros casos de covid-19.

Se ordenó a los puntos de venta de la ciudad que dejaran de vender la carne importada. Los productos congelados fueron incautados de los estantes y sellados por los funcionarios.

Lo más curioso es que según la agencia Xinhua, la carne congelada contenida en 1.210 cajas, con un peso de 26,93 toneladas, se envió al municipio de Tianjin, en el norte de China, el 2 de marzo y llegó a Wuhan el 28 de marzo, cuando el primer caso positivo por covid-19 se produjo el 13 de marzo.

Industria uruguaya no ha recibido comunicación oficial china que confirme covid-19 en empaque de carne

07/12/2020 - 2:06 PM

Hasta el momento la cadena frigorífica uruguaya no cuenta con ninguna comunicación oficial del gobierno chino que confirme la detección de coronavirus en envases de cartón en los que viajó y se comercializó carne procedente de Uruguay y Brasil.

“Estamos atentos a lo que puede pasar, pero no ha llegado ningún tipo de comunicado oficial. Lo estamos esperando para ver qué medidas tomar. Al momento la planta seguirá trabajando de manera normal”, afirmó Daniel De Mattos, gerente de frigorífico BPU NH Foods.

En diálogo con Rurales El País, el industrial contó que la noticia los agarró “con las defensas bajas” y que “no fue muy grato” haber recibido dicha información.



“La verdad que no tenemos ninguna comunicación oficial del Ministerio y Aduana china, fue un comunicado de prensa lo que se conoció”, afirmó.

En ese sentido, De Mattos informó que se ha tratado de hacer la trazabilidad de la producción de esa carne, que fue producida -según el número de lote- el 5 de diciembre de 2019. Eso, dijo, fue enviado a China entre diciembre y enero y llegó a China cuando los puertos estaban abarrotados. Eso hizo que el contenedor -o los contenedores- hayan sido bajados en Malasia, y que ingresaran a China los primeros días de marzo.

“Estamos tratando de proveer toda la información posible”, dijo.

En tanto, aseguró que este supuesto caso reafirma varias cosas: “que la planta tiene estándares para la producción y para cuidarnos no solo del covid, sino de la seguridad alimentaria. Estamos tranquilos por ese lado. Y para ser más exactos (ese producto) tiene un año y dos días de producción y se trata de un producto congelado”, comentó.

Uruguay defiende su carne y garantiza el control sanitario

08/12/2020 - Alerta por posible detección en China de covid en el envío

A través de un comunicado, el gobierno uruguayo marcó su postura respecto a los recientes hechos divulgados por fuentes oficiales respecto a la presunta contaminación con covid-19, detectada en el empaquetado de carne bovina congelada procedente de Uruguay en la República Popular China, lo siguiente:

En primer lugar, el Uruguay se encuentra sumamente comprometido en garantizar la inocuidad, la trazabilidad y los controles sanitarios en toda la cadena productiva del país, cuestión que le ha valido el reconocimiento internacional como proveedor de productos confiables y de calidad para el mundo. Asimismo, se debe destacar el total compromiso que ha asumido el Uruguay, a través de los diferentes Ministerios competentes y del Instituto Nacional de Carnes (INAC) con la adopción de las recomendaciones y medidas de prevención y control para la gestión de respuesta contra la pandemia del Covid-19 dispuestas por la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS), la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO) y demás organismos internacionales inherentes en la materia.

El pasado domingo 6 de diciembre, el Centro de Control Epidemiológico de Wuhan publicó una noticia sobre la presunta detección de un caso de Covid-19 en el envase de un lote de carne bovina congelada procedente de una planta uruguaya. El supuesto lote afectado correspondería a una partida producida en Uruguay en el mes de diciembre de 2019 que se encuentra desde marzo de este año en un depósito de la ciudad de Wuhan, provincia de Hubei y, que habría llegado primero a Sudáfrica, luego a Malasia y a continuación a la ciudad de Tianjin, en donde habría estado también almacenado. El container fue reportado vacío por la empresa naviera el 14 de marzo de 2020, en la ciudad de Tianjin.

Cabe señalar que los primeros casos de covid-19 fueron oficialmente detectados en el Uruguay el 13 de marzo del corriente año y, a la fecha, no existen casos confirmados de coronavirus en ningún establecimiento de la industria cárnica del país. Dado lo expuesto, y considerando que la fecha de producción del lote es anterior a la detección de los primeros casos de Covid-19 en el territorio nacional y que dicho producto ha pasado casi un año en depósitos extranjeros, el gobierno del Uruguay desea enfatizar que resulta imposible que el producto en cuestión haya sido contaminado en origen.

Al mismo tiempo, se recuerda nuevamente el control de la situación sanitaria en los establecimientos productivos uruguayos, que es resultado del estricto cumplimiento de las medidas de contención del nuevo coronavirus en el país. Por ese motivo, Uruguay puede continuar garantizando la total inocuidad de sus exportaciones a China.

Reconocemos el derecho de aplicar políticas preventivas contra la introducción del Covid-19 por parte de las autoridades de China. No obstante, sugerimos se tomen en consideración otras informaciones que deben incorporarse a la investigación epidemiológica, previo a generar anuncios o medidas que pueden significar distorsiones al comercio.

MGAP suspendió planta frigorífica tras primer caso positivo de covid-19

10/12/2020 - 9:38 PM

Pese al esfuerzo realizado por los integrantes de la cadena cárnica para mantenerla libre de covid-19, el pasado lunes se constató la presencia del primer caso en Uruguay en una planta frigorífica

Una vez confirmado el caso, la División de Epidemiología del Ministerio de Salud Pública procedió a tomar las medidas correspondientes y, según se informó, a la fecha se han confirmado otros tres casos vinculados al primero.

La División de Industria Animal del Ministerio de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca (MGAP) indicó a la Inspección Veterinaria Oficial de esa planta que, a partir de la fecha, se suspenden las producciones y la certificación de la carne a China.



Cabe destacar que de los nueve contenedores embarcados por esta planta entre el 1° y el 7 de diciembre de 2020, la última fecha de producción fue el viernes 4, antes de que el caso fuera confirmado.

El MGAP decidió suspender preventivamente la habilitación de esta planta para China por tiempo indeterminado, y que las producciones a partir de la fecha de la constatación serán retenidas y analizadas, de acuerdo a la evolución de la situación epidemiológica.

Por su parte, el Frigorífico Lorscheider S.A. decidió suspender las actividades de faena y desosado a partir de este viernes 11.

Exportación de animales en pie a Brasil

Otto Fernández: “Hay un interés real de Brasil” por importar ganado y ovinos en pie

09/12/2020 - Quedó habilitado el cuarentenario en Artigas, como el funciona en Aceguá, que permitirá exportar ganado en pie a Brasil

Luego de mucho tiempo de trabajo, en las últimas horas quedó habilitado el denominado cuarentenario de Artigas que permitirá exportar animales en pie a Brasil. Momentáneamente se hará desde el local Chiflero y, previamente, los intermediarios deberán tener el negocio armado para presentarle al Ministerio de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca (MGAP).

Si bien se ha denominado como “cuarentenario”, en realidad se trata de un paso de control sanitario, de inspección, que la mayoría de las veces se realiza arriba del camión.

Otto Fernández, director de la firma Otto Fernández Negocios Rurales, hizo referencia a que “el interés es real” por parte de los brasileros, no solamente por importar ganado para el abasto, sino que también por ovinos para concentración (en San Pablo).

“El interés es real. Es una puerta importante que se abre y un punto muy positivo, sobre todo teniendo en cuenta el momento del año. Va a permitir al productor concretar negocios que se venían conversando”, dijo.

Según el consignatario del norte del país, hay un mercado muy demandante por corderos y borregos, aunque la necesidad mayor hoy en Uruguay es por categorías adultas, que es lo que se tranca en esta época.

“Hemos gestionado consultas y estamos viendo posibilidades. No me atrevo a hablar de valores ni de porcentajes, pero tendremos novedades en las próximas horas. Sabemos que la demanda real de Brasil a la carne y al pie siempre ha estado en categorías de corderos y borregos”, concluyó.

Se habilitó el cuarentenario y el paso de fronteras de Artigas

09/12/2020 - 2:26 PM

Lo confirmo el MGAP; por el momento se utilizarán las instalaciones del local Chiflero para trabajar

En las últimas horas quedó habilitado el denominado cuarentenario de Artigas que permitirá exportar animales en pie a Brasil. Momentáneamente la operativa se hará desde el local Chiflero y, previamente, los intermediarios deberán tener el negocio armado para presentarle al Ministerio de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca (MGAP).

Hace tiempo Uruguay trabaja en la creación de un cuarentenario -como el que actualmente funciona en Aceguá- que permita a los productores ingresar con animales en pie a Brasil. Si bien se ha denominado como “cuarentenario”, en realidad se trata de un paso de control sanitario, de inspección, que la mayoría de las veces se realiza arriba del camión.

Jorge Riani, presidente de la Agropecuaria de Artigas, confirmó la novedad a Valor Agregado, de radio Carve. Hizo referencia a que las autoridades del MGAP les informaron que el local Chiflero está momentáneamente habilitado mientras no se hace el paso de frontera en la terminal de carga.

“Se pueden ir haciendo negocios por lanares y vacas gordas. Creo que puede ser importante en este momento. Estamos muy contentos. Esperemos tenga andamio y no sea burocrático. Desde la Agropecuaria solamente facilitamos la herramienta, los trámites estarán a cargo de los intermediarios”, dijo.

En tanto, aseguró que los paulistas están interesados en importar vacas gordas, capones y ovejas.

10/12/2020 - Será el local “Chiflero” y hay demanda por ovinos y bovinos

Los productores de Artigas son optimistas en poder concretar alguna exportación de ovinos y bovinos en pie hacia Brasil antes de fin de año.

El paso de frontera en Artigas para exportar ovinos y bovinos en pie para Brasil, ya es una realidad. El Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca habilitó el Local “Chiflero” de la Asociación Agropecuaria de Artigas como cuarentenario, pero la gremial no participará del negocio entre los exportadores uruguayos y los importadores brasileños, sólo aporta su logística.



Jorge Riani, presidente de la Sociedad Agropecuaria de Artigas, afirmó a El País que Brasil sigue manifestando interés por llevar ovinos en pie y alguna vaca gorda para abastecer su mercado, tanto San Pablo como otras localidades.

La habilitación del “Chiflero” como paso de frontera y terminal de carga de los animales, fue confirmada por las autoridades sanitarias del MGAP, en el marco de una reunión de la Comisión Nacional Honoraria de Salud Animal (Conhasa).

“Se pueden ir haciendo negocios por lanares y vacas gordas. Creo que puede ser importante en este momento. Estamos muy contentos. Esperemos tenga andamio y no sea burocrático. Desde la Agropecuaria solamente facilitamos la herramienta, los trámites estarán a cargo de los intermediarios”, dijo Riani.

Si bien la situación de déficit hídrico mejoró en Artigas, hay mucho ganado para sacar. Asimismo, la posibilidad de sacar ovinos no incluye sólo a los corderos, también hay posibilidades de colocar categorías de lanares adultos para frigoríficos brasileños que están mostrando avidez de oferta.

Uruguay promociona sus carnes en restaurantes de Japón

09/12/2020 - 12:06 PM

El bife ancho uruguayo formará parte del menú promocional del plato tradicional local Sukiyaki y Shab-Sabu

El Instituto Nacional de Carnes (INAC) viene realizando actividades de promoción y construcción de marca de las carnes de Uruguay en Japón desde 2019, una vez logrado el reingreso de la carne de Uruguay a este destino. Japón es uno de los cinco países foco de la estrategia del Instituto para el posicionamiento de nuestras carnes.

El Grupo Skylark comenzó a promocionar carne uruguayana en una de sus cadenas de comida típica japonesa, Syabu-Syabu Buffet, donde a partir de diciembre y por dos meses, el bife ancho uruguayo formará parte del menú promocional del plato tradicional local Sukiyaki y Shab-Sabu.

Este plato consiste en carne cortada en tiritas finitas y una variedad amplia de verduras, que se cuecen en una olla de caldo caliente con salsa de soja y salsa mirin, entre otros ingredientes.

El Grupo Skylark posee locales en todo Japón con diferentes propuestas de cocina desde la típica japonesa, pasando por la china y la occidental. Además, tienen otros restaurantes fuera del país.

Japón es el tercer importador mundial de carne bovina, detrás de China y Estados Unidos. Entre enero y octubre de 2020, las importaciones de carne bovina enfriada y congelada alcanzaron US\$ 2.787 millones, un volumen de 501.693 toneladas peso embarque.

El mercado nipón es abastecido en su mayoría por Australia y Estados Unidos, que combinados acaparan el 87% del valor de las importaciones. Uruguay tiene una participación marginal, habiendo alcanzado hasta octubre de 2020 el 0,6% del total del valor de las importaciones. En Japón, Uruguay es de los pocos países que paga el arancel de importación del 38,5%.

Entre enero y hasta el 26 de noviembre de 2020, Uruguay exportó US\$ 19,67 millones y 2.689 toneladas peso embarque de carne bovina.

Confirman menor intención de encierre de ganado de cara a 2021

04/12/2020 - “La intención de encierre es menor de la que venía siendo”, señaló Álvaro Pastorini, asesor técnico de Agrifirm

Según explicó, en diálogo con Rurales El País, el precio base del novillo ha sufrido una baja considerable, y si bien la reposición ha acompañado la baja, desde el sector se está expectante.

Un “precio interesante” al que podrían cerrarse negocios sería de US\$ 3,60 o US\$ 3,70, pero hoy complica no tener ninguna base para empezar a negociar.

“En definitiva, ni desde la industria a corrales, ni de la industria hacia atrás. Hoy no está claro cuál sería ese precio y se hace muy difícil desde los corrales intentar cerrar las puertas”, aseguró.

A su vez, el rebrote de covid-19 en Europa ha significado una complicación para este tipo de negocio. “Era una cuota que deberíamos estar terminando de entregarla y se han diferido cargas. Es entendible, se cayeron negocios y tenemos que dar una mano para que las cosas salgan”, dijo.

Esto va a tener sus consecuencias, dado que la comida se encareció un 20%. “De todas formas, los negocios estaban pactados y hay que respetarlos. Así va a ser. Nos va a impactar negativamente. Tampoco son tantos días, va a ser menos malo de lo que podría llegar a ser”, explicó.

Balance. Pastorini hizo referencia a que ha sido un trimestre relativamente bueno desde el punto de vista productivo, dado que el clima seco y con muchas horas luz favorece a este negocio. A su vez, desde el punto de vista físico, se ha cerrado bien.

“Lo que tenemos cerrado hasta ahora ha sido bueno y serán buenos, razonables, los cierres económicos. Para adelante se abre un marco de duda mayor porque hacia el futuro tenemos una no previsión en los precios de salida que nos tiene a todos bastante expectantes porque no hay negocios cerrados de futuro”, comentó.



Exportación. En la medida que las condiciones se mantengan, dijo, preparar terneros para la exportación “puede llegar a ser una salida para los corrales”.

“Puede ser bueno y producir de nuevo un pico de ganado de cría encerrado”, concluyó.

Exportación de ganado en pie acumula una caída de 31% en lo que va del año

por Cecilia Ferreiradiciembre 9, 2020

Las exportaciones de ganado en pie sumaron 105.617 vacunos entre enero y noviembre de este año, mostrando un retroceso de 31% respecto a igual periodo de 2019, cuando se enviaron al exterior 154.022 cabezas, de acuerdo a datos del Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca.

Turquía sigue siendo el principal destino del ganado local, con 77.461 vacunos exportados en lo que va del 2020. Asimismo, el volumen exportado a ese país cayó casi a mitad este año, con 77.461 cabezas frente a 147.538 el año pasado, un retroceso de 47%.

China, Emiratos Árabes, Irak y Jordania han sido otros de los destinos que ha tenido este año el ganado uruguayo.

China se dinamizó principalmente en ganado lechero con, al menos, tres empresas preparando embarques para este mes y con negocios cerrados para 2021. Junto al ganado lechero, se ha enviado ganado hereford y angus aunque en menor volumen.

En estas horas Di Santi LTDA se encuentra embarcando 3.700 vacunos holando y 350 hereford, ganado de reproducción con destino a China, informó a Ganadería.uy Federico Di Santi, titular de la firma. Este es uno de varios negocios que se han concretado este año para ese destino y que tienen previsto embarques para este mes.

“Para el 2021 parecería que va a haber bastante movimiento o por lo menos se va a seguir con esta corriente de barcos donde vayan algo de hembras de carne y holando”, señaló a Tiempo de Cambio de radio Rural Alejandro Zambrano, integrante de Zambrano y Cía.

Por su parte, tres empresa internacionales que operan en Uruguay se encuentran comprando terneros enteros con otros destinos.

PARAGUAY

Avanzan los procesos para habilitar la carne paraguaya en Estados Unidos

08/12/2020GANADERÍA

El pasado viernes, las autoridades del Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Salud Animal (Senacsa) mantuvieron una videoconferencia con sus pares de Estados Unidos, en el marco del proceso de apertura del mercado norteamericano para la carne bovina nacional. La actividad que se desarrolló con el Servicio de Inspección e Inocuidad de Alimentos (FSIS) de Estados Unidos “fue muy positiva”, confirmó a Valor Agro el presidente del Senacsa, José Carlos Martín. Si bien todavía no hay fechas para estimar la habilitación del mercado, los procesos siguen corriendo favorablemente. Desde la industria paraguaya se prevé que la apertura de Estados Unidos se logre en 2021. Estados Unidos es el segundo mayor importador de carne bovina del mundo con más de 1,3 millones de toneladas, lo que representa un poco más del 15% del producto que se comercializa internacionalmente, según datos del año pasado. Fuente: Valor Agro.

Chile aumentó 23,8% las compras de carne vacuna paraguaya entre enero y octubre

08/12/2020GANADERÍA

Aunque compró menos carne bovina de la mayoría de los proveedores entre enero y octubre del 2020, Chile aumentó un 23,8% las importaciones de Paraguay con un total de 77.575 toneladas, según datos de la Oficina de Estudios y Políticas Agrarias de Chile (ODEPA). Durante todo el año, Paraguay se ha convertido en el principal proveedor de carne de Chile. Pese al mayor volumen colocado, la carne paraguaya se desvalorizó 2,2% en el periodo analizado, pasando de US\$ 4.543 a US\$ 4.446 por tonelada entre 2019 y 2020. El otro país que mejoró las ventas a Chile fue Argentina con un total de 25.531 toneladas, un 3,4% más. Mientras que Brasil (- 25,6%), Estados Unidos (- 43,2%) y Uruguay (- 41,9%) bajaron las toneladas colocadas. Brasil es el segundo mayor proveedor, detrás de Paraguay. En promedio, Chile ha comprado 6,2% menos de carne bovina durante enero y octubre del 2020. Y el valor medio de importación se ubica en US\$ 4.676 por tonelada, un 1,1% más. Noviembre. En este mes, el 54,5% de las exportaciones totales de carne bovina paraguaya tuvieron a Chile como destino. Los volúmenes colocados fueron de 18.643 toneladas, un 81,7% más frente al pasado mes de octubre. Comparado con noviembre del año pasado, cuando se exportaron 8.004 toneladas a Chile, el aumento es del 132,9%, de acuerdo a la información del Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Salud Animal (Senacsa). Fuente: Valor Agro.

UNIÓN EUROPEA



BREXIT

Industria cárnica británica advierte que ventas podrían caer entre un 50 y un 75%

10/12/2020 - Los directores ejecutivos de las empresas cárnicas más grandes del país enviaron una 'advertencia severa' destacando los problemas que afectarán al comercio después del Brexit
EUROCARNE | Los procesadores de carne más grandes del Reino Unido han advertido que si no se aceleran los esfuerzos de preparación para el Brexit, los volúmenes comerciales de productos de origen animal podrían caer entre un 50% y un 75%. En una carta conjunta al secretario de Estado de Defra, George Eustice, los directores ejecutivos de las empresas cárnicas más grandes del país enviaron una 'advertencia severa' destacando los problemas que afectarán al comercio después del Brexit, sea cual sea el estado de cualquier acuerdo comercial del Brexit.

"Escribimos para señalar nuestra preocupación urgente por la continua falta de preparación de las agencias clave que deberían planificar un papel fundamental en el apoyo a los exportadores de alimentos de Inglaterra y Gales", advierten en el documento.

La carta decía que problemas como la falta actual de veterinarios en el Reino Unido no se han abordado en los meses previos al final del período de transición. También destacaron el "daño oculto" que el nuevo proceso de certificación aduanera infligirá a los exportadores de productos de origen animal, independientemente de que el Reino Unido consiga o no un acuerdo con la UE.

El grupo advirtió que las perspectivas para los fabricantes de carne del Reino Unido a partir del 1 de enero parecen "sombrias", y que las empresas británicas se encuentran en una "desventaja competitiva grave" debido al nuevo requisito de completar un certificado de salud de exportación para cada entrega de productos de origen animal a los Estados Unidos.

También llamaron la atención sobre el hecho de que, a pesar de que el Gobierno les ha dicho que se preparen para el Brexit, las empresas no pueden comenzar a implementar nuevos sistemas y actualizaciones hasta después del 18 de diciembre. Es entonces cuando el Comité Permanente de Vegetales, Animales, Alimentos y Piensos se reúne para fijar los detalles de lo que exactamente deberán cumplir las empresas británicas.

"Esto da a las compañías que trabajan 6 días durante la semana más ocupada del año para poner en práctica lo que sea necesario antes del 1 de enero".

Pero ya es demasiado tarde para implementar algunos de los requisitos probables, un ejemplo de los cuales es la necesidad de realizar pruebas y declaraciones para certificar que los animales y la carne procesada están libres de triquinela. Este no es un requisito actual, por lo que no existe ningún sistema. Esto significa que los animales o productos que se encuentran actualmente en el sistema no se autorizarán para la exportación.

El Reino Unido exporta carne por valor de 1.768 millones de euros a la UE cada año. Esto, advirtieron los directores ejecutivos, no se verá compensado por una mayor demanda interna porque gran parte del comercio se produce en cortes de carne que no se consumen en el Reino Unido. El resultado, sugieren, también será un aumento de los precios para los consumidores del Reino Unido y una alteración del mercado nacional.

Los firmantes incluyeron a las compañías cárnicas más grandes del país, con el CEO de Cranswick, Adam Couch, el CEO de Dunbia, Niall Browne, el presidente de Moy Park, Chris Kirke, y el CEO de Pilgrim, Andrew Cracknell, entre los patrocinadores. La NFU, el British Poultry Council, la Cold Chain Federation y la British Meat Processors Association también participaron en la carta.

En su carta, el grupo hizo tres llamados al gobierno del Reino Unido para que tomara "medidas políticas más decisivas" para aumentar los recursos de certificación y simplificar el proceso de exportación.

"En primer lugar, queremos un gobierno que dé instrucciones, y apoyar financieramente, todos los veterinarios oficiales de empleo (directa o indirectamente) por la Food Standards Agency u otra agencia gubernamental a desempeñar un papel directo en el apoyo al proceso de certificación de exportación de productos de origen animal" ellos dijeron. El grupo señaló que las empresas de alimentos en otros países europeos tendrán la "clara ventaja" de tener su certificación de exportación completada por las contrapartes europeas de la FSA.

"En segundo lugar, queremos que el gobierno utilice la autoridad de la Agencia de Sanidad Animal y Vegetal para simplificar significativamente la orientación sobre cómo los veterinarios oficiales en el último punto de partida antes de la exportación pueden confiar en los controles existentes como base para tener confianza para certificar los productos para la exportación".

"En tercer lugar, queremos que el Gobierno revise las normas sobre que la inspección y verificación debe ser realizado por un veterinario oficial, y lo que puede ser realizado por un oficial de apoyo de certificación supervisado adecuadamente entrenado".



Comisión Europea admitirá productos orgánicos desde el REINO UNIDO por doce meses adicionales

07 December 2020 National Farmers Union

The European Union has recognised the contributions of the UK organics sector, ensuring that UK organic products will have continued access to EU markets after the Brexit transition period ends.

Recognition by the EU of the UK's organic sector will ensure continued access to vital EU and Northern Irish markets and bring certainty to producers, the National Farmers Union said.

The European Commission's decision will mean that the UK's six organic certification bodies will be recognised for 12 months following the end of the EU Exit transition period.

NFU organic forum chair Andrew Burgess said: "Exports to the EU have and always will be an important part of the UK organic supply chain and to be able to continue to export to that key market from January is a huge relief.

"While not the full mutual equivalency we have been pressing for, this decision should offer short-term certainty for those organic businesses who've been concerned over losing access to this valuable market.

"UK organic mutual equivalence with the EU is something the UK government has been seeking to be included as a technical annex within the draft Free Trade Agreement text currently being negotiated. We hope that an agreement is reached which mutually recognises the UK and EU as having equivalent organic standards to provide more long-term certainty for the organics sector."

The UK's Organic Farmers & Growers group chairman Roger Kerr said:

"OF&G (Organic Farmers & Growers) welcomes the news of the recognition of all six UK organic control bodies by the EU. This will allow UK organic produce to continue to be traded across European markets next year, which would otherwise have been closed to the sector from 1 January 2021.

"However, uncertainty remains as the recognition fails to address the regulatory status beyond the end of 2021 as new EU organic regulation comes into effect on 1 January 2022.

"This is a short-term gain for the industry and the news will be a relief to the organic sector that's been living with uncertainty for so long. But it still doesn't deliver the robust national organic equivalency agreement between the UK and EU we're calling for.

"We would anticipate that this would avoid the need for label changes and could mean that the requirement for certificates of inspection can be avoided once there's an agreement. This would be of significant benefit to operators."

Entidades rurales solicitan que se clarifique el proceso

10 December 2020

Copa and Cogeca and other key EU farming bodies have made five urgent requests regarding EU and UK trade relations as Brexit negotiations come down to the wire.

As the EU and UK trade negotiations seem to be reaching a conclusion, Europe's farmers and agri-cooperatives, food manufacturers, traders, and agri-food sector workers have issued the following joint statement outlining what will need to be done next:

Our priority is to safeguard jobs and allow the agri-food sector to thrive. At this eleventh hour we call on negotiators to strike a comprehensive tariff and quota-free trade agreement with close harmonisation of rules, including on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade. We must strive for a level playing field, including on workers' rights.

Whether a deal is struck or not, we have 5 urgent requests:

On conclusion of the negotiations, we will need immediate clarity on future UK-EU trade rules to avoid more economic turmoil and job uncertainty for a sector already badly bruised by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UK will leave the Single Market and the Customs Union which will mean customs procedures, regulatory burdens and rising transport costs. A no-deal scenario, with the imposition of tariffs and heavy customs requirements, will create a dire situation. Given agri-food businesses will likely feel a greater impact from Brexit than other sectors, specific measures will be needed for a smooth transition, as well as broad support from the EU Brexit Adjustment Reserve.

Public authorities will need to organise quick and effective information campaigns to help businesses understand the new rules and plan their operations.

Workers' rights must be protected, and businesses given the assistance they need to maintain job security for the millions of employees working in the European agri-food chain.

Constant dialogue with the European Commission and UK authorities, as well as with social partners and stakeholders, will be essential to respond to potential disruptions and emergencies that will emerge after 31 December 2020.

Whatever the outcome of the negotiations, we encourage the EU and UK to put any acrimony behind them in favour of a strong and productive relationship for the benefit of all.



Preocupación por trámites aduaneros ante la falta de acuerdo

10 December 2020

The UK's largest meat companies have penned a letter to cabinet officials saying that they fear a drop in exports due to costly and cumbersome customs certification once the UK leaves the EU.

In a letter to Secretary of State George Eustice, CEOs of some of the largest beef, lamb, pork and chicken processors in the UK have sent a stark warning that if the current shortage of vets in the UK persists, trade volumes of products of animal origin could drop 50-75 percent.

They also highlighted the hidden damage that the new customs certification process will inflict on exporters of these products regardless of whether or not we get a deal.

The group warned that the "New World" from 1 January looks bleak, with British firms being put at a severe competitive disadvantage due to the new requirement to complete an Export Health Certificate for every single delivery of animal origin product to the EU.

No time to prepare

They also drew attention to the fact that, despite being told by Government to prepare for Brexit, companies cannot begin to implement new systems and IT upgrades until after 18 December. This is when the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meets to fix the details of what exactly British firms will need to comply with.

This gives companies 6 working days over the busiest week of the year to implement whatever is necessary before 1 January.

But it's already too late to implement some of the likely requirements, an example of which is the need for testing and declarations to certify animals and processed meat are free of trichinella. This is not a current requirement so there is no system in place. This means that any animals or product currently in the system will not be cleared for export.

What the Government needs to do

In their letter to the Secretary of State the group made three calls for Government to take more decisive policy action to both increase certification resource and to use its authority to simplify the export process.

First, we want Government to instruct, and financially support, all Official Veterinarians employed (directly or indirectly) by the Food Standards Agency or other government agency to play a direct role in supporting the export certification process for products of animal origin.

By comparison, food companies in other European countries have the distinct advantage of having their export certification completed as part of the service to businesses provided by the FSA's European counterparts.

Second, we want Government to use the authority of Animal and Plant Health Agency to significantly simplify the guidance on how official veterinarians at the last point of departure before export can rely on existing controls as the basis for having confidence to certify the products for export.

Third, we want Government to revise the rules on what inspection and verification must be done by an Official Veterinarian, and what can be done by an appropriately trained and supervised Certification Support Officer.

Unless Government now steps in with these robust interventions, we may have gone beyond the point that these issues can be fixed and a significant loss of business for the meat industry may now be inevitable.

Productores irlandeses afirman que serán los principales perdedores por el BREXIT

11 December 2020

When speaking to a government committee on agriculture, Irish Farmers Association President Tim Cullinan warned that farmers will face major challenges due to market upsets stemming from Brexit.

When addressing the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture on 8 December, IFA President Tim Cullinan warned that Irish farmers and agriculture will lose more than their European counterparts because of Brexit, regardless of the final outcome.

"Whether or not a limited deal is achieved, the impact will be a deterioration of trade – what is at issue is the degree of that deterioration," he said.

Though the Irish market has attempted to diversify since the 2016 vote, the UK remains the ultimate destination for 38 percent of Ireland's agri-food exports. Over 40 percent of all Irish beef and dairy goes to the UK, along with nearly 1/3 of all pig meat exports.

The IFA President set out IFA's Brexit Emergency Plan, which is partly modelled on the EU's response to the Russian ban on EU food imports in 2014, which shows the EU's willingness to intervene in significant ways to support farmers faced with the impact of a geopolitical event in which they are powerless.

Cullinan set out six key measures that could safeguard Irish and European agriculture. These include:

- Maintaining a close trading relationship between the UK and EU, while protecting the EU single market



- Maintaining a level playing field regarding food safety, animal health, animal welfare and environmental standards
- Avoiding burdensome delays and inspections at borders that would increase costs for both sides
- Ensuring that access to the UK market must be tariff-free and quota-free
- Ensuring that there is no return by the UK to a cheap food policy
- Making the European agriculture sector a priority by supporting the €5 billion Brexit Adjustment Reserve

ESTADOS UNIDOS

Exportaciones de carnes bovinas retroceden – Mejoran embarques a CHINA

By GREG HENDERSON December 7, 2020

October beef exports were modestly lower compared to last year, while the export market to China is soaring, according to data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (UMEF). October saw beef exports decline 0.4% at 107,591 metric tons (mt), valued at \$646 million, down 0.5%. For the first 10 months of the year, beef exports were 7% lower than 2019 in volume (1.02 million mt) and 8% in value (\$6.2 billion).

Beef muscle cut exports trended higher than a year ago in October, increasing 5% to 85,445 mt valued at \$573.8 million (up 1%). January-October muscle cut exports were 5% below last year in volume (791,694 mt) and 8% lower in value (\$5.48 billion).

It was the 6,831 mt tons of beef exported to China in October, however, that drew attention. That number, while less than one percent of the total U.S. beef export total, represents a 219% increase in volume and 187% increase in value (\$177.7 million) from a year ago. USMEF said China's demand has been especially strong since China's foodservice sector rebounded from COVID-19 related restrictions imposed earlier in 2020.

In Hong Kong, where the foodservice recovery has seen more interruptions, January-October exports were down 5% from a year ago in volume (67,882 mt) and 9% lower in value (\$541.4 million).

"While the tight labor situation continues to limit the cut and variety meat specifications available for export, red meat demand is strengthening in many critical markets," said USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom. "October exports of bone-in hams, for example, were near the July record and up 50% from a year ago. This has been a volatile year, filled with shifts in consumer preferences and a lot of uncertainty for international buyers. But the U.S. industry has responded positively to these challenges and the demand dynamics for red meat are quite strong as we approach year's end. When the gains made at retail over the past several months are combined with a stronger foodservice recovery, the prospects for export growth are very promising."

Beef export value averaged \$283.94 per head of fed slaughter in October, steady with last year. The January-October average was \$293.99, down 5% from a year ago. Exports accounted for 12.7% of October beef production, down slightly from a year ago. But for muscle cuts only, the percentage increased from 10.5% a year ago to 10.8%. January-October exports accounted for 13.2% of total beef production and 11% for muscle cuts, each down about one-half percentage point from a year ago.

Exports to Japan, the largest foreign consumer of U.S. beef, recorded solid gains in October, topping last year by 10% in volume (23,353 mt) and 8% in value (\$146.8 million). Through October, exports to Japan trailed last year's pace by 2% in both volume (257,083 mt) and value (\$1.61 billion).

Exports to South Korea were slightly below last October at 19,389 mt, with value down 2% to \$135.4 million. January-October exports to Korea were 3% below last year's record pace at 209,101 mt, while value was down 6% to \$1.46 billion.

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Durante los primeros 10 meses del año, las exportaciones de carne de cerdo estuvieron un 15% por delante del ritmo récord del año pasado

EUROCARNE | Las exportaciones de carne de cerdo de EE.UU. registraron ganancias generales en octubre, según los datos publicados por el USDA y compilados por la Federación de Exportación de Carne de EE.UU. (USMEF). Las exportaciones de vacuno en valor también fueron más altas que hace un año en octubre, aunque los menores volúmenes empujaron las exportaciones totales de carne de vacuno ligeramente por debajo del año pasado.

Las exportaciones de carne de cerdo de octubre aumentaron 8% año tras año a 242.536 toneladas, y el valor también aumentó un 8% a US\$ 641,1 millones. Las exportaciones a México, Japón, China/Hong Kong, Canadá y Filipinas fueron sustancialmente más altas que hace un año, mientras que los envíos a Centroamérica y Sudamérica fueron los mayores desde marzo.



Durante los primeros 10 meses del año, las exportaciones de carne de cerdo estuvieron un 15% por delante del ritmo récord del año pasado de 2,46 millones de toneladas, con un valor de hasta un 16% a US\$ 6.330 millones.

Con México como el destino de mayor volumen, las exportaciones de cortes sin hueso de octubre registraron ganancias de dos dígitos a 201.723 t (un aumento del 11%), con un valor de 10% a US\$ 551,8 millones. Esto elevó los totales de enero a octubre para cortes sin hueso de cerdo a 2,07 millones de toneladas (un 20% más) valorados en 5,49 millones (un 18% más).

En cuanto al vacuno, las ventas en cantidad en octubre bajaron un 0,4% hasta los 107.591 toneladas por un valor de US\$ 646 millones, un 0,5% menos. Las exportaciones a China establecieron otro nuevo récord y los volúmenes estuvieron por encima de los niveles del año anterior a Japón, Taiwán América Central y África. Aunque todavía por debajo del año pasado, las exportaciones de carne vacuna a México fueron las más grandes desde marzo.

De enero a octubre, las exportaciones de carne vacuna siguieron el ritmo del año pasado en un 7% en volumen (1,02 millones de toneladas) y un 8% en valor (US\$ 6.200 millones).

“Si bien la difícil situación laboral continúa limitando las especificaciones de corte y variedad de carne disponibles para la exportación, la demanda de carne se está fortaleciendo en muchos mercados críticos”, dijo el presidente y director ejecutivo de USMEF, Dan Halstrom.

“Las exportaciones de jamones con hueso en octubre, por ejemplo, estuvieron cerca del récord de julio y aumentaron un 50% con respecto al año anterior. Este ha sido un año volátil, lleno de cambios en las preferencias de los consumidores y mucha incertidumbre para los compradores internacionales. La industria estadounidense ha respondido positivamente a estos desafíos y la dinámica de la demanda de carne es bastante fuerte a medida que nos acercamos al final del año. Cuando las ganancias obtenidas en el comercio minorista durante los últimos meses se combinan con una recuperación más sólida del canal foodservice, las perspectivas de crecimiento de las exportaciones son muy prometedor”, agregó.

COVID-19 impactos sobre la industria de carnes en 2020

Steve Kay, December 11, 2020

A monthly column written for Beef Central by US meat and livestock industry commentator, Steve Kay, publisher of US Cattle Buyers Weekly

THIS year's COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the US meat and poultry industry in several significant ways.

The first is that beef, pork and chicken processors initially saw production severely curtailed by worker illnesses and absenteeism.

This resulted in companies spending well in excess of US\$1 billion on numerous measures inside and outside plants to protect their workers and encourage them to return to work.

A third impact is that widespread restaurant closures and restrictions have transferred consumers' food dollars from foodservice to retail establishments even more than occurred during the great 2007-2009 recession. Such spending is unlikely to return to a normal 50:50 split until the pandemic dramatically recedes or until the majority of Americans are vaccinated against the virus.

US meat and poultry companies have acted on numerous fronts to protect their workers, at huge expense. Tyson Foods, the largest US processor, incurred direct incremental expenses associated with the impact of COVID-19 totaling approximately US\$200 million and US\$540 million for its fourth quarter (ended October 2) and twelve months of fiscal year 2020, respectively, it says.

It expects such costs to decline to US \$330 million in fiscal 2021.

Tyson's COVID-related direct incremental expenses primarily included team member costs associated with worker health and availability and production facility downtime, the company says. They included direct costs for personal protection equipment, production facility sanitization, COVID-19 testing, donations, product downgrades and rendered product, partially offset by CARES Act credits.

Other indirect costs associated with COVID-19 were not reflected in this amount, including costs associated with raw materials, distribution and transportation, plant underutilization and reconfiguration, premiums paid to cattle producers and pricing discounts, it says. Tyson even set up special health clinics at its plants.

Meanwhile, Tyson sold far more beef to retail outlets in fiscal 2020 than in 2019, in large part because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on foodservice establishments from March onwards. Tyson's retail beef sales totaled US\$8.155 billion, up US\$735 million on 2019's US\$7.42b. Its foodservice sales totaled US\$3.669b, down US\$482 million from 2019's US\$4.151b. Beef sales in 2020 were thus 2.2 times larger to retail than to foodservice, versus 1.78 times in 2019.

Tyson's international beef sales in 2020 totaled US\$2.183b, while industrial and other sales totaled US\$1.345b. Its pork sales in 2020 totaled US\$1.59b to retail, US\$403 million to foodservice, US\$1.026b to international and US\$1.244b to industrial.



Walmart was by far Tyson's largest customer, accounting for 18.7 percent of total sales. Tyson sold product in 145 countries and export sales from the US totaled US\$4.0b.

Changes in where Americans spend their food dollars

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered, at least for a while, where Americans spend their food dollars, but not how much they spend relative to their disposable personal income (DPI). The proportion is 10pc and has not changed in the past 20 years. In contrast, the average percentage between 1960 and 2000 declined from 17pc to 9.9pc.

DPI is the amount of money that Americans have left to spend or save after paying taxes, says USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), which compiled the data. From 1960 to 2000, Americans spent less of their incomes on food purchased from supermarkets, convenience stores, warehouse club stores, supercenters and other retailers (food at home), says ERS.

The share of DPI spent on food at home fell from 13.7pc in 1960 to 5.7pc in 2000. Over the same period, the share of disposable income spent on food purchased from restaurants, fast food places, schools and other away-from-home eating places (food away from home) rose from 3.3pc to 4.2pc, says ERS.

The declining share of income spent on food at home in the US over 1960 to 2000 in part reflects rising disposable incomes and efficiencies in the US food system, says ERS. This kept inflation for food-at-home prices generally low.

Higher incomes mean food at home can take up a smaller share of income and allow for more funds for the generally more expensive option of eating out. Average DPI in the US, adjusted for inflation, grew 3.3pc per year from 1965 to 1985 and 2.8pc per year from 1986 to 2000. But since 2000, the average rate of increase of DPI has slowed to 1.9pc per year from 2001 and 2019, says ERS.

The share of DPI spent on food at home continued to decline after 2000 but at a slower pace, says ERS. This slower decline could reflect Americans opting to prepare more meals at home, as they did during the 2007-09 recession and its aftermath. It also could reflect Americans purchasing more expensive grocery store options, such as pre-cut vegetables and fruits, imported out-of-season foods, organic products and prepared dishes than they did in earlier decades, says ERS.

The share of DPI spent on food away from home held steady at 4.4pc during the 2007-2009 recession before reaching 4.7pc in 2019, compared with the 4.9pc of DPI spent on food at home, says ERS. Food-away-from-home prices also grew more than prices for food at home in the last two decades, which may have contributed to the rising share of DPI spent on food away from home. Food-away-from-home prices increased by 68.3pc between 2000 and 2019, and food-at-home prices rose by 44pc says ERS.

Debaten sobre definición de trabajadores "esenciales"

09 December 2020

As US companies push to get workers vaccinated, states disagree on who is essential.

Reuters reports that companies and industry groups lobbying to get their US workers to the front of the line for coronavirus vaccination are running into a patchwork of state plans and confusion over who is essential, and who is not.

Inoculation against the disease caused by the novel coronavirus is key to safely reopening large parts of the economy and reducing the risks of illness at crowded meatpacking plants, factories and warehouses.

But before one needle has entered the arm of an American worker, confusion has broken out over who exactly is considered essential during a pandemic.

With initial vaccine doses limited and strong federal guidance lacking, it has fallen to US states to determine who will be first in line to receive a vaccine, and who will have to wait well into next year.

State vaccine distribution plans reviewed by Reuters showed broad discrepancies over who would be considered essential, with some states clearly outlining specific worker groups and others not providing any clarity.

Generally, states have broad discretion when it comes to vaccine distribution and policy and are able to issue vaccination mandates for their residents.

Many states have so far followed federal guidance to give meat and food processing industry workers space in the line, but some are slowly moving away, said Mark Lauritsen, a former hog slaughter worker who now advocates on behalf of about 250,000 meatpacking and food processing workers under the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

"For example, Colorado has not moved meatpacking and meat-processing as high as some other states. So we'll be directing a lot of our effort towards places like Colorado where we may be moved down the food chain."

"We're a union that has members in every state so we will be talking to every state to make our case as to where our place in line should be...Everybody is going to be jockeying for a place in line."

More than 20 large industries have urged officials to prioritise their workers, including individual companies such as ride-hailing company Uber Technologies Inc and food delivery provider DoorDash Inc and industry groups representing truck drivers, teachers, retail workers and other business sectors.



At least 22 industries, including agricultural companies, cleaning suppliers, dental hygienists, bus drivers and meat packers, also have written to the Advisory Committee on Immunisation Practices (ACIP), an independent panel of health experts recommending vaccine distribution guidelines to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Who is essential?

"We're hopeful that local health officials start jumping on this quicker rather than later so that there's some guidance and some better sense of how to be efficient with the essential workforce," said Bryan Zumwalt, executive vice president of public affairs for the Consumer Brands Association.

ACIP to date has only recommended healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care facilities should receive the vaccine first - a priority not disputed by any industry or state. ACIP members did not respond to a request for comment or declined to comment pending the discussions.

While some states have said they would await the committee's further recommendations, others went ahead and developed their own vaccine distribution priorities, a review of COVID-19 vaccine distribution plans showed.

US President-elect Joe Biden has criticised President Donald Trump's lack of a coordinated plan to distribute coronavirus vaccines, but it is not clear whether the federal government could overwrite state distribution plans.

In New York, essential frontline workers regularly interacting with the public, such as pharmacists, grocery store workers and transit employees, are slated to receive the vaccine in a second distribution phase, while Florida included all essential workers on a US Homeland Security list.

But that Homeland Security department list, spanning more than 25 major industries, makes up nearly 70 percent of the US labour force, according to researchers at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Empresas frigoríficas solicitan que sus trabajadores sean priorizados en la vacunación contra el COVID 19

By GREG HENDERSON December 9, 2020

Three meat industry trade groups sent a letter to the nation's governors seeking to prioritize meat and poultry workers for COVID-19 vaccinations following healthcare workers and those in long-term care facilities.

The North American Meat Institute (Meat Institute), the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), and the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) sent the letter Dec. 4, urging governors to help meat and poultry workers by giving them access to the vaccine immediately after workers in healthcare and long-term care facilities.

"Earlier this year the Department of Homeland Security identified food manufacturing as a critical infrastructure sector, which included meat and poultry workers and livestock producers," the letter said. "Those people have been on the front lines ensuring Americans have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food. The challenges packing plants and their producer suppliers in particular faced in the early stages of the pandemic were unprecedented and yet were endured. The meat industry is resilient and the supply chain remains intact."

The three groups said meat and poultry companies have spent more than \$1 billion on procedures and controls to support and protect their employees, including implementation of health recommendations from the Centers for Disease control (CDC) and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration since last spring. The expenditures include physical adaptations to facilities, personal protective equipment, enhanced sanitation, advanced ventilation systems, extensive testing and contact tracing, enhanced health care services, and more.

"The challenges packing plants and their producer suppliers in particular faced in the early stages of the pandemic were unprecedented and yet were endured," the letter said. "The meat industry is resilient and the supply chain remains intact. Critical components of that resilience are the programs and protocols packers implemented in the spring and summer, programs that have proven effective in limiting the spread of the virus even while the curve nationally has been soaring in the opposite direction. Those programs and protocols, coupled with the education programs packers will undertake to explain the importance and safety of vaccination, put meatpacking facilities in an ideal position to administer the vaccine to many people in an orderly and efficient fashion."

Vilsack candidato a ser Secretario de Agricultura de la Administración Biden

By TYNE MORGAN December 9, 2020

As agriculture awaits confirmation Joe Biden will tap Tom Vilsack as the next Secretary of Agriculture, Washington insiders say Vilsack is a known entity, which would be a positive for U.S. farmers and ranchers.

Farm Journal Washington correspondent Jim Wiesemeyer says if the news is made official, it won't be the first time an Agriculture Secretary has served under more than one Administration. Jim Wilson served as



Ag Secretary from 1897 to 1913 and did so under three Administrations. However, Wiesemeyer says Vilsack will make history in another way.

"I don't think we've ever seen an Ag secretary come back after being gone, so that's interesting," Wiesemeyer says.

Biden is expected to confirm his USDA Secretary nomination later this week, but Wiesemeyer says consensus is building Vilsack will be tapped.

"He's a known commodity and amongst the ag sector, who worries about everything, but they don't have to worry about Vilsack," he adds. "He's a consensus builder. I think that's what's needed."

Chuck Conner, who served as Deputy Secretary for the US Department of Agriculture before being named president and CEO of National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) in 2009, says agriculture is wading through intense uncertainty right now with coronavirus and other elements at play.

"Obviously coronavirus has thrown a whole new uncertainty on that as we are rapidly adjusting the way that we provide food to Americans in the midst of all that," Conner says. "You couldn't script any more uncertainty, and I think for farmers and rural Americans, another uncertainty was obviously government and the leadership of government."

Conner says the possible appointment of Tom Vilsack as the next Agriculture Secretary removes another layer of uncertainty. While he's served as president and CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council since 2017, he also worked directly with farm programs under the Obama Administration, with a deep understanding of row crops and USDA programs supporting farmers and ranchers.

"He's a known entity," Conner adds. "He's a person who knows rural America. and I think that's an uncertainty that we can sort of take off the table, if you will, to some extent and not have to deal with during these highly certain times. and you've got to believe that that's a positive thing for farmers in rural America."

That known commodity aspect also received recognition from key members of Congress. Iowa Senator Charles Grassley tweeting out his approval Wednesday, saying Vilsack understands the importance of preserving the family farm, and the significance of the biofuels industry. Grassley's approval is big, as he could be a key player in the approval of Vilsack in the Senate.

In addition to coronavirus response, Wiesemeyer says another priority for the next Administration will directly tie into agriculture.

"Climate change is going to be the number one issue in his early years of the Administration," he says. "Agriculture plays a big role in climate, as well as working with the EPA on the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program."

Conner says based on the eight years Vilsack served as Agriculture Secretary under the Obama Administration, Vilsack proved he believes in science. Conner thinks that will be key in creating climate initiatives and priorities within agriculture.

"In the eight years that he was there, Tom Vilsack believed in science and believed in evaluating and government actions based upon the best available science," says Conner. "That's key in this climate debate, because obviously, there are circumstances where there's a lot of hype and a lot of enthusiasm on issues that may not have a whole lot of science backing to them."

Conner says his experience with Vilsack leads him to believe Vilsack will be passionate about climate change as Agriculture Secretary, but will use science to back up whatever path USDA takes.

National Farmers Union (NFU) issued a statement Tuesday night after news about Vilsack's possible appointment surfaced, saying, "After eight years leading USDA, Tom Vilsack has the necessary qualifications and experience to steer the agency through these turbulent times."

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) president Zippy Duvall followed with a statement Wednesday applauding Vilsack on his ability to rise above partisanship to serve farmers and ranchers. Duvall went on to say, "Tom Vilsack understands that the agriculture sector is far more complex than most people understand. He believes in a 'big tent' philosophy that supports all types of production and understands the importance of respecting farmers and ranchers as partners worthy of support in the race to achieve sustainability goals."

While Vilsack will work to shape future agriculture policy, he will also be tasked with possibly implementing the next Farm Bill. In addition to that, Conner says it will be interesting to see what direction Vilsack takes.

"We're all sort of now evaluating what were the loose ends when he left office," says Conner. "I think there's a lot of issues out there relative to competition in the marketplace that were still pending when he left last time. It'll be interesting to see if he picks up a lot of those sort of competitiveness issues, particularly in the meat sector that could very well resurface again, and we'll be watching those to see which direction he may be headed on that."

As agriculture awaits official word on leadership—and priorities—of the next USDA, the new Agriculture Secretary will have a big task: find bipartisan solutions to help shape the future of agriculture policy.



AUSTRALIA

Analizan la caída en los embarques hacia ESTADOS UNIDOS

Jon Condon, December 7, 2020

A LARGE price differential between US domestic manufacturing beef and imported alternatives is the primary reason for a dramatic decline in Australian's beef exports to the US last month.

As reported last week in Beef Central's monthly beef exports summary for November, volume to the US last month reach just 9596 tonnes – the lowest monthly shipment volume seen from Australia since January 2011.

While January is always the quietest month in the annual beef export cycle out of Australia, as many export plants close for holidays, the 2011 year was particularly hard-hit because of the effects of Cyclone Yasi, which tore along the Queensland and NSW coasts. Damage and flooding caused the closure of the Port of Brisbane for a week, as well as prolonged closures of meat processing plants from Innisfail to northern NSW. Roads and rail lines were cut, further limiting access to slaughter stock, until well into March in some regions.

Last month's beef export trade to the US was down 34pc from an already-low October volume of 14,500t, but there was no cyclone this year to explain the huge shift in trade.

An export meat trade contract last week said whichever way it was looked at, the underlying cause for the slump was the big gap in price that existed currently between US domestic meat and imported Australian alternatives.

Quoting Yellow Sheet prices from Thursday, he said domestic fresh 90CL beef was at US201-205c/lb, while imported spot 90s (frozen) was 228c/lb.

"In the old days, a spread of that size was the upper limit, with a US20c/lb premium one way or the other, but the last few years there has been a lot more volatility," he said.

"Last year when China was moving in, buying Australian meat in volume, it went to 50c/lb in favour of imported, over domestic US 90s."

The other factor in recent trade volume shifts was that the US industry is still working through the big backlog of feedlot cattle caused by earlier COVID-related meat plant closures, so there was plenty of US domestic supply around.

"One of the grinders in the US told me he had seen plenty of quite cheap Central American meat in the market, from suppliers like Nicaragua. Brazil, on the other hand, had pulled back a little, as their cattle prices became some of the more expensive in South America, decreasing their offerings into the US," the trade contact said.

"Generally speaking, there is more Central and South American beef in the US than there was a year ago – but I wouldn't say that's the reason why Australian volumes are currently so low. It's primarily about the price difference between our manufacturing beef and that in the domestic US system."

Cost pressure

As evidenced by Friday's announcement that the MonBeef hot-boning cow plant in NSW will close for eight months starting January, manufacturing beef plants in Australia have been tearing up \$300-\$400 a head processing cows for lengthy periods this year.

"It means that Australian processors in fact have a reduced appetite to kill as many cows, as they normally would," the trader said.

"In fact, everybody I try to buy US export type meat from here in Australia, they are trying to sell it domestically, because domestic has easily been our strongest (price) market this year. Everybody is looking for every possible alternative that they can, but that domestic market could very easily become oversupplied, as a result."

Adding to the supply-side pressures are reports out of the US suggesting there may be even more cows entering the kill in the US, because of the current low dairy prices.

"The ongoing world uncertainty around COVID – especially in the US and large parts of Europe which are having serious relapses – is also impacting beef demand. The US came out of lock-down and hit the restaurants over summer, but now all that is changing again. Quick service restaurants are probably doing better than others in the US – especially with home delivery and kerbside pick-up – but all the US is again being affected by COVID lock-downs. But if there is again a swing from food service to retail in the US like there was in the first round of COVID infection, that works against the interests of frozen Australian cow trim, because they (US retailers) want fresh."

The US export beef market for Australia has been on a dramatic roller-coaster road throughout 2020.

After starting the year modestly, exports shot sharply higher in May and June, during the depths of the COVID-related sickness among abattoir workers, which at one point knocked out 40pc of US beef processing capacity. US meat prices jumped dramatically due to the shortfall, and Australian beef became a go-to item to fill the gap, with monthly volumes leaping to 26,161t of chilled and frozen beef in June.



Export trade to the US in July showed signs of easing again, reaching almost 24,000t – about the same as July last year.

In its most recent weekly imported beef market report, Steiner Consulting said more imported grinding beef was arriving in the US from markets other than Australia and New Zealand.

“Lean 90CL and 85CL prices were steady to firm last week, as supply availability from Australia remains limited and asking prices reflect the general price inflation for cattle/beef prices there,” Steiner said.

“Supply availability from South America is marginally better although with China such a big part of the business there, there is no real push on the part of South American suppliers to push hard in the US market. Mexico was a big part of the import picture in the first half of the year and through the summer, but supply availability has declined dramatically. With more Mexican feeder cattle coming to the US, packers there have found it difficult to fill domestic orders and maintain the export pace at the same time,” Steiner said.

Mexico had in turn started to buy more beef in the US to fill its own domestic supply gap.

The weakness in the value of the US dollar had also played a role in shifting the export/import balance, Steiner said.

Trade for imported fatter trim remained extremely limited last week, as the domestic US market was well supplied, and a wide gap persists between domestic fat trim prices and asking prices overseas.

Official October import statistics for the US were released a fortnight ago, showing a sharp deceleration of import volumes from northern hemisphere summer highs. Overall imports of fresh/frozen and cooked beef in October were 84,639t, 2.9pc higher than a year ago but down 42,500t or 33.5pc from the annual high in July.

US beef imports from Australia in October were down 32pc compared to a year ago but much of that decline was offset by higher imports from Brazil.

Vaccine news injects confidence

The announcement that a COVID-19 vaccine will be available to most people in the US by spring has encouraged significant optimism about the future, Steiner said.

“However, in the near term the food service industry remains in contraction, and we think November/December surveys will show a double dip in the current situation component of the survey.

“However, it should be noted that despite the spike in COVID cases throughout much of the US, states are handling this very differently. Some states continue to keep restaurants opened but with some restrictions (capacity, table spacing, hours of operation) while others have once again asked restaurants to shut down and only offer take-out and delivery. The situation also varies greatly within some states, where the restrictions vary county by county. The October data continued to show that fast food restaurants are outperforming other concepts,” it said.

Despite rising COVID cases in the US, including counties where US cattle and hog processing plants are located, US cattle slaughter continues to run near year ago levels.

Steiner estimated that last week fed cattle slaughter in the last four weeks has been a total of 2.014 million head, 0.2pc higher than last year, while non-fed slaughter has been a total of 554,000 head, 1.7pc lower than last year.

Japón y Corea del Sur encabezan principales destinos de exportación

10 December 2020

Key points:

- November beef exports were 79,900 tonnes swt, with Japan and South Korea the top destinations
- Challenges appearing for the US market as foodservice trade remains subdued
- Lamb exports remain consistent, now just 2% behind 2019 levels

November was another challenging month for Australian red meat exports, with tight supply of livestock impacting exports, particularly beef and mutton. Last month exports of beef were 79,900 tonnes shipped weight (swt), 2% down on October volumes but 23% behind the same month last year, tracking in line with reduced levels of cattle slaughter. Total beef exports for the 2020 year-to-November are 954,000 tonnes swt, 14% down on 2019 levels.

Constrained month for beef exports to the US

November represented the smallest total of Australian beef exported to the US since January 2011 at 9,600 tonnes swt, back 30% on the same month last year. A number of challenges are mounting for the US market, which have contributed to this reduction in exports.

As COVID-19 cases continued to rise, the impacted US processing capacity resulted in a short-term spike in imported beef demand, back in May. Since then, US cattle slaughter has run at near year-ago levels, bolstering beef production and shoring up US self-sufficiency. Meanwhile, US restaurant activity remains subdued due to ongoing lockdown restrictions. A final consideration is that competition within the market is certainly tight. While import volumes from Mexico, Australia and New Zealand dropped away in October,



imports from Canada, Nicaragua and Brazil lifted 10%, 20% and 51%, respectively (Brazilian volumes are coming off a lower base).

Japan and South Korea top destinations in November

In November, 25,400 tonnes swt of beef was exported to Japan. Trade to Japan, Australia's top beef market, has remained steady through the year despite supply and demand challenges. Of note last month was the volume of manufacturing beef sent to Japan, which eclipsed 12,000 tonnes swt. This is impressive, considering the monthly average for the past three years was below 10,000 tonnes swt. For the year-to-November, manufacturing beef exports to Japan were up 4%. Australia is a dominant supplier of beef to hamburger chains and casual dining restaurants in Japan, and while the 2020 pandemic impacted all foodservice businesses, some operators in this segment weathered the challenge comparatively well, supported by their take-out/delivery capabilities.

November was a huge month for exports to South Korea, with beef exports reaching 16,600 tonnes swt, the largest total for South Korea since August 2018. After Japan, South Korea was the next largest destination, accounting for 21% of all Australian beef exports in November, which is unexpected considering the Korean-Australia beef import safeguard was triggered last month. However, a reduction in buyer competition from China (who have been sourcing large volumes of beef from South American competitors) could be a contributing factor for the lift in trade. Additionally, shipping delays have also resulted in a wave of product exported late in October/early November (prior to the safeguard being triggered) being carried over to later in the month.

Lamb exports performing well despite challenges

Lamb export volumes have performed well in recent months off the back of improved slaughter levels. In November, lamb exports lifted 1% on the month prior to reach 24,400 tonnes swt. For the year-to-November, lamb exports are 240,600 tonnes swt, just 2% behind 2019 levels and up 3% on the five-year average.

China remains the largest destination for Australian lamb, however, exports have declined relative to 2019 levels. For the year-to-November, South Korea, the US, Malaysia and Hong Kong are all destinations that have lifted on 2019 levels. Given challenges associated with COVID-19 this year, it is a positive sign that these markets have experienced growth despite all the obstacles throughout the year.

Contracting slaughter levels limiting mutton exports

Sheep slaughter has shown some improvement since the typical winter lull, however, it still remains well back on historical levels. Mutton exports in November reached 14,400 tonnes swt, a slight dip on October levels and a 34% decline on the same month last year. With such high levels of sheep turnoff experienced through 2018 and 2019, restricted availability has had a major impact on the availability of mutton to export this year.

China continues to dominate the mutton market – largely accounting for any lifts in mutton availability. However, mutton exports to China are back 34% on 2019 levels, which is one of the more prominent declines across the board. The US, the UK and Qatar are three key markets where mutton export volumes have lifted relative to 2019, albeit only in small volumes.

Australia es competitiva en el comercio de animales vivos

10 December 2020

Key points:

Darwin feeder steer prices have dropped since records reported in March and April

Darwin feeder steer prices have remained stable since July

Current Darwin feeder steer prices cheaper than Indonesian cattle prices, making Australian cattle competitive in live export markets

Despite strong Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) price increases during 2020, up 59.3% on year-ago levels, Darwin feeder prices, the key price indicator for live export prices to Indonesia, have remained relatively steady during the second half of the year, albeit off a high base.

Darwin feeder prices have been somewhat shielded from the upward price pressures the EYCI has experienced this year. Similarly, Darwin feeder prices have not experienced the price spike of Townsville slaughter steers destined for Vietnam.

The record high EYCI in 2020 has been driven by a combination of factors, most notably tight supply and strong domestic demand from producers looking to rebuild herds following favourable seasonal conditions. However, the northern feeder production system is vastly removed from the southern one as it targets the specific needs of live export markets, meaning it is removed from the competitive forces the EYCI moves by.

Despite relatively high Darwin feeder prices during 2020 and softer demand in Indonesia since COVID-19, exports have continued to flow, albeit at reduced volumes on 2019. For the year-to-October, Australia exported a total of 413,146 head of cattle to Indonesia, mostly feeder cattle, 28% back on the same period in 2019.



In the past six months to October 2020, when Darwin feeder prices saw notable rises, Australian export cattle prices have still averaged around 33% lower than Indonesian domestic cattle prices. This price differential was most pronounced in July and August, when Jakarta cattle prices spiked due to higher seasonal demand during the Qurban (Eid Al Adha) festival, during which time consumers tend to favour domestic animals.

The most recent BOM forecast suggests a La Nina is underway and that December to February rainfall is likely to be above average across much of Australia, giving further momentum to a rebuild of the national cattle herd. MLA's current Cattle Industry Projections from September indicate that this rebuild will flow through to live exports by 2022.

Diversification urged as part of Australia response to China trade actions

Jon Condon, December 10, 2020

AUSTRALIAN agricultural commodity export industries needed to be attuned to the changing operating environment in China, and the changing risk profile being faced over recent times – with a growing need to look at market diversification.

That was one of the key messages to emerge from a recent webinar convened by the Australian Centre for International Trade and Investment, titled 'Australia-China Agriculture Trade: Challenges and Options'.

In setting the scene for the webinar, ACITI chief executive Pru Gordon itemised the long and growing list of Australian ag exports that had been impacted by recent Chinese sanction measures including beef, barley, cotton, seafood, timber, sugar as well as coal and copper ore, and most recently, wine.

Ms Gordon said it was not particularly unusual for the Chinese to impose arbitrary trade barriers on exporters, or refuse to speak to Australian ministers or officials when Australia had 'done something' that had made them unhappy.

"But recent actions do appear to have been more targeted at penalising Australia, and it is also more difficult to see, at this point, how we might restore a more positive relationship with China, and therefore more certainty in our trade relationship," she said.

Economic coercion

One of the webinar speakers attempting to provide answers over why China is taking the retaliatory measures it currently is with Australia was UQ academic Dr Scott Waldron, from the School of Agriculture and Food Science.

Along with Dr John Longworth, Dr Waldron was co-author of the definitive 2001 trade reference book, *Beef in China: Agribusiness opportunities and Challenges*. A well-thumbed copy of the book proudly sits on Beef Central's reference library shelf.

Dr Waldron chose to use the term 'economic coercion' to try to explain some of China's recent actions, and the specific targets it had selected in agriculture.

He said economic coercion was economic measures taken by one state that were designed to change the behaviour or policy of another.

"In this case, it is China trying to maximise the costs, and therefore the leverage on Australia to influence our policy, while also minimising the cost to China," he said.

Dr Waldron said the starting point was the overall value of trade in different industries. As his table published here shows (compiled early last month), China had targeted four of the top six agricultural export items to China (highlighted in yellow), based on trade over the five year period ended 2019.

These are big industries with big trade value to Australia. But the trade value had to be balanced with actual costs, in terms of market substitution (i.e. if trade flow to China for a commodity is banned, it gets sold into another market), or product substitution (China bans barley, so Australian barley growers switch to wheat or another crop).

"But it depends on the industry," Dr Waldron said. "In the case of barley, it was very exposed to China, but unlike a commodity like wine or cotton, through product substitution, barley growers could move to wheat, pulses or canola." In the case of wine or cotton, those big investments in infrastructure or machinery would increase the cost to those industries from China's actions.

An earlier ABARES study suggested that while the barley trade to China was worth \$1.2 billion annually, the actual cost to the industry through China's actions was more like \$330 million.

"In some commodities that have suffered total bans to China, the overall aggregate impact are not that high," Dr Waldron said.

The way economic coercion worked, however, it was not so much about impacting overall aggregate flows, but to target particular exporting industries, where there could be a big impact on those industries. The theory was that those industries would then make representations to their government, attempting to influence government behaviour and policy setting, through those lobbying channels.

While the explanation above focuses on the cost side, the other part of the equation was the impact of trade limitations on China itself, Dr Waldron said.



Looking at the commodities listed on the table, the obvious question to be asked is, Why hasn't China targeted Australian wool? It could be argued that to really do damage to Australia, China could target wool, worth \$2.5 billion annually, and representing 80-90pc of all Australia's wool exports.

"The obvious answer is that banning wool would in fact just do too much damage to China itself," Dr Waldron said.

"Eighty to ninety percent of its fine wool requirements, for the worsted sector, comes from Australia, which would effectively close down those Chinese worsted mills if the trade was halted. China is not prepared to pay that cost, but it is for some of these other industries, where there are supply alternatives."

Using Australian barley as a case study, Dr Waldron said Chinese domestic barley production had halved from four million to two million tonnes since 1992. Imports hovered around two million tonnes, before going 'through the roof' around 2015, because of China's corn subsidy and substitution program that distorted trade.

As a result of these two things, total barley use then contravened China's policy on food security – aiming to produce a substantial amount of important foods domestically.

Of the already high barley imports, Australia accounted for between 70 and 80pc, contravening Chinese policy settings on import diversification.

"China does not want to be exposed to any single source of imported commodities – especially from countries that China does not regard as being an ally," Dr Waldron said.

"As a result, China imposed tariffs on Australian barley, using the argument that Australia was subsidising domestic barley production, and dumping it into the Chinese market below market prices, damaging China's domestic barley production – and crucially, the incomes of smallholder Chinese barley producers."

"We've been through the barley cases put by China character by character, stacked all the figures – and they don't stack up," Dr Waldron said. "It's a spurious case, which China has since rejected."

A similar pattern applied to wine, where China had ambitions to grow its own wine industry, but local production had declined. The China Alcohol and Drinks Association had claimed that the growing domestic market was being 'robbed' by imports, so it filed an investigation into wine dumping.

While beef into China was also a highly-managed trade, its circumstances were different. Technical barriers, labelling, residue and food safety issues added another layer of complexity to the trade's recent challenges.

While most of China's beef imports up to 2015 came through production smuggled in from neighbouring countries, Australia originally accounted for about 50pc of imports. But China has since been able to diversify imports from other areas, especially South America. By 2019, Australia accounted for just 16pc of imports.

"But that's a good position to be in, compared with a lot of other commodities where China is much more reliant on a single supplier."

Dr Waldron said there were some concerning signs emerging in China in terms of structural forces, such as agricultural subsidies at a time when the rest of the world was declining subsidies, ignoring rules-based trade with tariffs and other mechanisms, and the broader concerns (discussed above) through economic coercion.

So how can Australia respond?

"The really important thing in considering responses is to accurately value the real cost of these barriers," Dr Waldron said.

"We don't want to under-state the costs, but equally, we also don't want to over-state costs, that might lead to other actions or behaviour that is unnecessary at this stage," he said.

He said industry bodies like the red meat industry's AMIC were not getting caught up in the 'tit-for-tat politics', but were working with government to put their heads down and work through the technical issues in front of them, and make cases to China.

"Importantly, businesses are now really starting to understand the risks of dealing with China, and just as part of normal business practise, to internalise those risks. With additional risks, there's a lot of Australian beef plants looking at diversifying their markets," he said.

"I recently went through submissions to a recent federal parliamentary inquiry into trade and investment diversification, and all but one submission from industry groups and individual ag companies were arguing for diversification."

"But that doesn't happen in a vacuum – it's supported by a big apparatus of government departments, biosecurity specialists and countless others.

"That's the question for Australian agriculture – how to deploy those resources to expand trade into markets other than China."

Business-to business dialogue continues

Also speaking during the webinar was Australian Meat Industry Council chief executive Patrick Hutchinson, who said there had been a huge amount of media coverage recently with regard to Australia's meat trade into China.



“The red meat industry has been somewhat different to many others up to this point in that recent issues have been on a business-to-business basis, as opposed to an overall industry impact.

“But we also know that it has been a targeted nature by which these individual businesses have been looked at.”

There were now eight Australian red meat processors that have been impacted – the original four which were temporarily suspended due to labelling issues; another more recent case that was temporarily suspended due to a claimed residue issue; two self-imposed Victorian suspensions back in July due to COVID sickness among staff; and Monday’s suspension of Meramist in Queensland.

“We had hoped the two self-imposed Victorian suspensions due to COVID issues would have been re-activated again fairly quickly, now that Victoria is COVID-free, but it is taking an inordinate amount of time,” Mr Hutchinson said.

Behind the scenes, what was not known was exactly why these actions from China had been taking place.

“What are we really looking at, in the reasons behind these suspensions?” Mr Hutchinson asked.

He pointed to an earlier article from the South China Morning Post, which talked about the Australian Anti-Dumping Commission assessing possible continuations of dumping duties on China, across a range of different products including aluminium extrusions, fly screens, TV aerials, stainless steel sinks and photocopy paper. Such counter-measures rarely were discussed in local media reports, but there was always going to be a sense of retaliation backwards and forwards over such matters.

Asked what realistic action the Australian government and industry could take, Mr Hutchinson said a key focus was internal or domestic China relationships.

“Certainly for the meat industry, we have been to China a number of times, making strong investments in time and resources to meet with key stakeholders. We (Australia and China) currently do a lot of business-to-business and government-to-government relationship work, but we don’t do very much association-to-association work, between importers and exporters, looking at sharing common goals,” he said.

In September last year, AMIC signed an agreement with the China Meat Association, to work on how best to share intelligence, and manage and improve relationships, and how to get the most out of any MOU that gets signed.

“But as we all know, this year, 2020, has been difficult, across a number of areas.”

“We also need to learn, as an industry and as a country, that with this relationship with China, what’s most important is that outside the government to government freeze that’s being seen, we (industry members) can still keep talking.”

“It’s important from an industry to industry perspective, that we keep those strong relationships in place. We also know it does not pay us in any positive way, either here or in China, if we go out and start chastising our own government for its decision-making, without having a detailed understanding of what’s going on behind the scenes.”

But equally, trade could never be collateral damage in the dispute process.

“It’s about weighing up what the mechanisms are that allow us to check and manage those key areas.”

Mr Hutchinson said despite the recent trade disruptions, Australia still looked like having its second biggest year on record, by volume, for exports to China this year.

“For example, for the nine months to the end of September, chilled beef exports were only down 1pc on last year,” he said.

“It’s the frozen product that is down about 22pc over the same period. There’s a range of issues behind that, most notably to do with storage, because coming into Lunar New Year, there was a huge January and February in regard to exports, however with it being filled and then the first COVID lockdown after Lunar New Year, the Chinese people did not travel as they normally would, or consume the red meat products that they normally would, via food service.”

Mr Hutchinson said AMIC continued to work with its MOU partners – MLA had an office in China, and worked hand-in glove with the Australian Embassy with regard to delivery of information and sharing intelligence.

“However at the end of the day, with all of the work going on underneath, we still have this issue above and beyond between governments.”

“At this stage, Australia’s regulators are still struggling to get some traction in those areas, and we should never forget that Australia still has 15 facilities that have not got their China license at all – even though that was signed-off on three and a half years ago in the joint statement between Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the Chinese Prime Minister.”

“We are still waiting for all Australian exporters to have chilled access, and we’re also waiting for the ability to export tripe, which is considered a delicacy in China, and which Australia has a great opportunity to provide.”



“But industry is certainly working behind the scenes, internally within China, with our MOU links, with our MLA links and with our business partner links in China – but if the government-to-government level is not working, then nothing will happen.

“So we need to continue to do our bit, in our areas, so that when the respective governments do start engaging again, that we are ready to go.”

A senior China market specialist with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who asked not to be identified for this report, spoke during the webinar, saying that while 2020 had been a tough year in so many ways due to COVID, China had been one of the first countries to bring the virus under control within its borders.

“China is now expected to be one of the few economies worldwide to have positive economic growth in 2020, perhaps reaching 2pc GDP growth,” he said.

“Australia has a good reputation in China as a reliable producer of clean and safe food, and Chinese consumers are clearly prepared to pay a premium for high quality, safe products.

Last year, China accounted for around one third of Australia’s agricultural exports, valued at around \$16 billion – assisted by the China/Australia Free Trade Agreement, providing preferential or zero tariffs on most agricultural and food exports into China.

Ag exports into China had increased by 53pc since CHAFTA was struck in 2015.

“That’s good, but like elsewhere, agriculture in China has always been politically sensitive and highly regulated. In China those concerns are more acute, given their historic of problems with food safety. Chinese regulators and officials are very risk-averse, as a result – and this year, the COVID pandemic has added to an already complicated and sensitive regulatory environment.”

Since March, new requirements were added on food imports including border testing, import declarations, requests to audit food establishments and some suspensions of food establishments in different parts of the world which had COVID cases. All this impacted trade and market access, and in the case of the Australian meat industry, in two cases voluntarily suspended China exports from two red meat plants that had sustained COVID cases (see yesterday’s separate story), rather than have China impose its own suspensions.

“We’ve done the right thing in that respect, and are asking now that they do the right thing, and restore our access, now that those COVID sickness cases have been resolved,” the trade official said.

Perceived risks

Exporters, including those from Australia, had also had to deal with perceived risks within China about transmitting COVID via either frozen food or its packaging – even though there was no scientific evidence, to the Australian Government’s knowledge, that such transmission risk exists.

All frozen and chilled food exporters had had to be ‘more careful’, and over the past few months there had been a lot of testing of imported products and packaging in China. Some exporting countries, particularly in South America, had had problems as a result.

“We all know that the bilateral relationship with China is more strained these days, and that’s an added complication on top of COVID concerns.”

The background to this was that Australia had taken a number of decisions over the past few years on national security and related issues which China regarded as sensitive – such as Hong Kong developments and a call for an international review of the source of the COVID pandemic.

“China has objected to those positions, leading to the bilateral relationship coming under considerable strain, impacting the political dialogue at the ministerial level,” the trade representative said.

“We (the Australian Government) do not think this is a reasonable response by China, and we do not want our issues to dominate our bi-lateral relationship. Certainly there are issues that we do not agree on, but we don’t think those issues need to be front and centre. We think it is unreasonable that they impact on commercial activity, because those commercial relationships are to the benefit of both sides.”

Nevertheless, along with the more tense political atmosphere this year, trade between the two countries has encountered a number of impediments – principally red meat, barley, cotton, seafood, and more recently, wine and timber.

Through media channels, China recently warned that there would be ‘more bitter fruit’ for Australia to swallow if it continued its anti-China stance, and “continued to ride on the US bandwagon of strategic confrontation with China.”

“For the Government’s part, we are committed to dealing with each trade issue as it arises, on its merits – working closely with industry to address China’s questions and issues, and taking up concerns from our side with the Chinese authorities,” the diplomat said.

He said the Australian government also reserved the right to take further steps through the World Trade Organisation.

**However Australian export industries needed to be attuned to the changing operating environment in China, and the changing risk profile being faced over recent times.”



“It’s also important, of course that exporters are scrupulous over technical issues such as labelling. Like many other countries, China has very high standards in what it wants to import.”

Through ministers Birmingham (trade) and Littleproud (agriculture) the Australian government had made it clear to China that we are ready to discuss these issues, and the embassy is in contact on the ground with Chinese authorities on a daily basis to convey our concerns, and seeking explanations to resolve recent issues.

“China’s reputation as a trustworthy and reliable trading partner is at stake,” the trade representative said. He said as opportunities arose, steps were being taken to pursue additional market access openings – particularly in view of the concessions China has granted to the US under the phase one trade agreement. “But it’s a complicated picture, with plenty of work still to do,” he said.

EMPRESARIAS

BRF projecta investir R\$ 55000 millones hacia 2030

08/12/2020

Maior companhia de frangos e suínos do País quer chegar a uma receita anual global da ordem de R\$ 100 bilhões nos próximos 10 anos

“Estamos abrindo um novo capítulo na história da BRF e ele fala de futuro”, foi uma das primeiras declarações feitas na manhã desta terça-feira (8/12), pelo CEO da BRF, Lorival Luz, em evento para apresentar o plano de negócios da companhia para os próximos 10 anos. A BRF, maior indústria de frangos e suínos do País, deve investir R\$ 55 bilhões no período, tendo como meta sair de uma receita atual de cerca de R\$ 35 bilhões anuais, para a casa de R\$ 100 bilhões.

Para isso, a aposta está no fortalecimento de marcas que já são valiosas, como a Sadia – com valor de mercado da ordem de US\$ 2 bilhões – Perdigão e uma aposta mais firme na internacionalização de suas operações. A Banvit, por exemplo, é uma marca forte nos mercados asiáticos e Oriente Médio. Na Turquia, ela é líder de mercado.

Com a presença de investidores e executivos da BRF, o evento mostrou, em detalhes, o plano de investimentos que contempla três fases. Na primeira, de 2021 a 2023, serão aplicados R\$ 18 bilhões. A companhia pretende apostar em produtos de maior valor agregado, no aumento do consumo de suínos e no mercado pet.

“A meta no período é dobrar a receita líquida, para R\$ 65 bilhões anuais”, afirma Luz. Na segunda fase, entre os anos de 2024 e 2026, a meta é avançar 2,5 vezes o Ebtida (lucros antes de juros, impostos, depreciação e amortização). “Nesse período, nossa estimativa é de que 45% da receita já virão de produtos de valor agregado”, diz Luz. Na terceira fase, até 2030, com investimentos de R\$ 19 bilhões, serão tomadas ações para acelerar os espaços abertos.

A meta da companhia de investir em produtos de valor agregado passa por todo o portfólio. Hoje, o índice é 50% e a meta é chegar a 70% de tudo que é produzido. No campo, a BRF trabalha com 10 mil produtores integrados que criam aves e suínos para a companhia. Na agregação de valor de produtos suínos, o cenário é de um mercado que pode chegar a R\$ 16 bilhões, quatro vezes o seu tamanho atual. No mercado de pets, hoje da ordem de R\$ 40 bilhões, a previsão são de R\$ 40 bilhões, em 2030.

Outra vertente de aposta é a de proteínas vindas de fontes variadas que não sejam proteína animal, destinadas ao mercado flexitariano e vegetariano. Para o Luz, esses produtos vão dividir as gôndolas, ao lado de laticínios e carnes. A empresa investiu R\$ 5 bilhões em pesquisas neste setor, nos últimos 5 anos. “Esse mercado representa menos de 3% dos produtos processados, mas tem um alto potencial de crescimento”, afirma o executivo.

URUGUAY Frigorífico Saturno trabajará 100% con carne nacional

10/12/2020 - 2:50 PM

La razón de ser de la carne importada siempre fue el precio. La operativa llegó cuando Uruguay exportaba sus productos a muy buenos precios, y ese fue el motivo por el cual el abasto comenzó a trabajar la carne importada. Sin embargo, hoy la coyuntura cambió, dado que la carne y el ganado en Brasil es más caro. Eso llevó a replantear el negocio y actualmente la carne nacional tiene más preponderancia en el mercado del abasto.

“Particularmente nosotros, en diciembre, no vamos a traer ni un kilo de carne importada. No llegamos a los precios que nos piden. Vamos a estar trabajando 100% con carne nacional”, explicó a Rurales El País Luis Avero, director de Frigorífico Saturno.

Según comentó, esta coyuntura permite también darle horas de trabajo a su gente y producir la carne nacional “que es la siempre quisimos comercializar”. “Por un tema de precios decidimos importar, porque sino quedábamos fuera del mercado”, dijo.



El industrial también explicó que la incertidumbre “es bastante grande”, sobre todo, por el tema de la pandemia de covid-19 que afecta a todo el sector comercial.

“Lamentablemente el sector que se estaba recomponiendo, el de los restaurantes, hoy se ve resentido nuevamente y eso repercute para muchos en su actividad comercial. Si bien las carnicerías y los supermercados están manteniendo un nivel adecuado, la expectativa es ver cómo se va a manejar en las fiestas”, expresó.

Precio. En lo que refiere al precio del ganado, opinó que ya llegó a su piso, y que ahora va a tener una recuperación.

“No sabemos a qué niveles va a llegar. Por el bien del productor el ganado se va a pagar más y nos vamos a emparejar con Brasil. Día a día veremos cómo se dará la coyuntura”, concluyó.