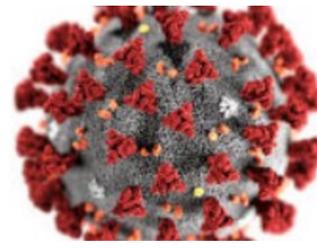


COVID-19 Updates



There is a great deal of uncertainty about the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the beef industry and our members. NC will provide updates on this page as more information becomes available. NC leadership and staff understands the anxiety and uncertainty that has resulted from the spread of this virus and are committed to doing our part to alleviate those concerns.

[Visit our Website](#)

May 29, 2020

NC Trade Update

China: Despite the current global pandemic, China continues to forward movement towards implementing Phase 1 of the US-China Trade deal that was signed in January. The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced recently that additional progress in the implementation of the ag-related provisions of the U.S.-China Phase One Economic and Trade Agreement.

The Phase-One Agreement between the US and China is a game changer for the U.S. beef industry. The removal of several non-tariff trade barriers that kept US beef at a competitive disadvantage is a big step towards growing the US beef market with the highest populated country in the world. China represents one-fifth of the global population and a middle-class that is greater than the entire U.S. population. Increasing the amount of beef and beef products that qualify for the Chinese market has the potential to translate into \$4 billion in sales over the next four years.

As a reminder, here are a few of those non-tariff trade barriers and progress towards implementation:

- China recognizes U.S. traceability system – only trace back to point of slaughter. No more book-end traceability requirements.
- China will remove the BSE restriction (30 months), commensurate with OIE guidelines. (Progress update was posted in March)
- China will establish Maximum Residue Levels on commonly used veterinary compounds including zeranol, trenbolone, and melengestrol acetate. (Progress update was posted in March)
- China will maintain its ban on beta agonists until a risk assessment is complete. There is no deadline established for the risk assessment, but the agreement reads “as soon as possible without undue delay.”
- China will establish a protocol for importation of live cattle / breeding stock. There is no deadline for establishing the protocol, but technical discussions will begin by March 13.
- China’s product scope will align with the United States. Processed products are also approved, as well as ground beef and beef trimmings.
- China will use the U.S. registry system. Pre-certification will no longer be required for U.S. beef products. (Progress update was posted in May)

USMCA: USMCA is still on track to officially go into effect on July 1st. As a reminder, the U.S. beef industry has the best possible access to our industries two closest trading partners in USMCA.

NCBA Trade Update

Most Recent USDA Data Projects Imports to Remain at 11 Percent of U.S. Consumption

Discussions about beef imports were put in the spotlight this week. NCBA agrees that the industry should have a conversation about imports and where we’re sourcing beef, but it’s important that the conversation be rooted in facts, not back of the envelope estimates using data from nearly a decade prior.

In response to R-CALF’s May 22, press release on trade levels, NCBA would suggest that it’s important that any reasonable discussion on trade include the most recent information available. Global beef trade is dynamic and trade levels rise and fall based on factors such as changes in currency valuation, areas of drought or moisture, global consumer demand, and many other variables, so utilizing trade data is just the latest demonstration of R-CALF’s willingness to cherry-pick the facts to drive their agendas.

Current USDA data available [here](#), projects current U.S. beef import numbers for 2020 at 1.334 million metric tons, while domestic production is estimated at 12.515 million metric tons, amounting to imports totaling 11 percent of U.S. beef consumption during 2020. In 2019, the most current full-year data available shows imports of 1.387 million metric tons, versus production of 12.381 million metric tons, with U.S. imports again totaling 11 percent of total consumption.

Why do we import beef? How much beef do we import? Why are these agreements vital to our industry? Answers to frequently asked questions can be [found here](#). We encourage you to utilize this document when talking with your friends and neighbors about beef trade.

Nebraska Coronavirus Relief Fund Program

On Wednesday, this week Governor Pete Ricketts announced the availability of \$100 million for livestock producers under the Nebraska Coronavirus Relief Fund Program co-administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. If you missed the release you can [read it here](#).

Stabilization grants for livestock producer's signup begins on June 15. Producers can use the SBS grant money as working capital to pay for operating expenses, with the purpose of helping the producer maintain or bounce back during the period of economic downturn.

Nebraska Cattlemen will keep everyone updated as more information on the application process becomes available. Once available the application and deadline dates will be announced here: https://getnebraskagrowing.nebraska.gov/?page_id=82

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Update

Hopefully, everyone received our [notice on Tuesday, May 26th](#) about CFAP open enrollment. CFAP enrollment is open until August 28th, 2020. Over this three-month period approved applicants will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment to ensure the availability of funding. The remaining portion of the payment will be paid later as funds remain available.

Producers interested in applying please download the [application here](#). Prior to submitting your application please contact your local FSA agency. Also, if you have questions or need additional one-on-one support with the CFAP application process, please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

We have received an abundant amount of communications from producers seeking clarity on CFAP and the application process. NCBA has put together a great scenario/Q&A resource, [read it here](#). Also, Farm Credit Services of America has put together a resourceful video, [watch it here](#).

For more information on CFAP [click here](#).

NDEE Allowing Operations to Temporarily go Over Head Count Until August

In April, due to COVID19, the Department of Environment and Energy Director Jim Macy announced that they would allow for operations to temporarily go over head counts until June 1st. The department has re-evaluated the situation and has extended that date to August 1st, 2020. If an operation needs to increase head count over permitted numbers, the operation needs to communicate with the inspector for the operation's area.

After August 1, 2020 operations should return to its permitted head count however, NDEE will continue to monitor and evaluation the current situation and extend the date if needed.

"If extra pen space needs to be created, it should be done in a manner that prevents discharges to waters of the state. Berms may be temporarily built to direct water onto fields or pastures. Extra pens can be created within the operation's containment. No pits can be built during this time." – Jim Macy, NDEE Director

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