

RUSSIA BAN IMPORT OF UNITED STATES RECTOPAMINE – FED ANIMALS AND MEAT PRODUCTS!

During the period from 2004 until 2007, due to BSE measures implemented, results of losses showed U.S. beef exports to Russia totaled 253 million dollars, especially when it came to frozen liver and other edible offal. Removal of tariffs imposed on U.S. beef itself, during the mentioned period of time would increase export to the Russian market by 54 million USD. It is more than obvious that tariffs have a significant impact on trade between United States and Russia.

At the end of 2003, the Russian government made a decision to ban imports of U.S. beef. during the next 4 years, since the ban has been in place, no beef processing facility from The United States were approved for exporting beef to Russia.

When we talk about OIE standard and BSE-related restrictions of the Russian market, we take in consideration age restriction of under 30 Months. The following goes under specific risk material definition: brains, eyes, spinal cord, skull, and vertebral column of all cattle, ground beef in bulk or patties ineligible for import.

Slowly, but persistently, Russia's animal health, sanitary, and food safety regulations are coming in place with a set of international standards, since Russia is heading towards standards of World Trade Organization, it would be worth to indicate other trade barriers to U.S. beef exports to Russia. One of them is moderately high tariffs (about 15%, however not less than 15 EUR-cents per kilogram when it comes to beef products shipped by U.S. exports.

Government support, when it comes to domestic beef industry, has been limited. There are some technical barriers which cause significant slowdown in Russia's beef import. Interesting that these barriers include uneven application of Russian customs regulations in different ports of entry, which should not be a part of normal import regulation procedure. In addition to that, the Government has a practice of providing customs agents with unpublished recommendations on minimum import unit valuation which on the other hand artificially boost import tariffs. Russia also has very a complex import licensing program which has an impact of adding the costs to import of this type of products and it usually creates delays in shipping to the final destination.

Overall, the United States is very disappointed by Russian's action to suspend all imports of meat produced in the United States. The main reason why Russia is against import of U.S. meat is because of Codex Alimentarius which approves animals being fed with food containing the additive - rectopamine.

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