



2023 KEY OBJECTIVE SUMMARY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ISSUE: FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

IMPORTANCE: International trade is vital to the long-term strength of the U.S. meat and poultry industry, and supports thousands of jobs along the supply chain. In 2022, red meat exports exceeded \$19.3 billion, and accounted for 27.5% and 15.2% of U.S. pork and beef production, respectively. However, the U.S. meat and poultry industry's export potential remains limited by unjustified sanitary barriers, prohibitive tariffs and tariff rate quotas, and onerous registration and approval requirements for exporting facilities.

Key market activities are outlined below. Additional information can be found [here](#).

China: The U.S. meat and poultry industry has benefited from significant market access gains under the Phase 1 Agreement with China. The agreement expanded eligibility for nearly all U.S. beef cuts from cattle of all ages, provided for the adoption of Codex maximum residue limits (MRLs) for growth promoting hormones in beef, increased the number of beef and pork plants approved to export, and provided eligibility for further processed products, among other gains. However, barriers to trade remain, including China's requirement that U.S. pork imports be accompanied by ractopamine-free certificates of analysis, even though all U.S. pork destined for China is being produced under ractopamine-free verification programs; China's zero tolerance policy regarding pathogens on the surface of raw pork and beef imports; and China's ban on the use of Codex and FDA-approved beta agonists.

U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement: USMCA's entry into force preserved duty-free and quota-free trade for U.S. meat and livestock exports and expanded market access for U.S. poultry exports to Canada. The meat industry is closely following developments in response to investigations of seasonal produce imports, along with other trade disputes on biotech agricultural exports, and supports resolutions that do not result in retaliatory tariffs on U.S. meat and poultry exports to Mexico or Canada, which would undermine the industry's access under USMCA. NAMI is also engaging its counterparts in Canada and Mexico to press our governments to work proactively to preserve business and trade continuity if African Swine Fever is detected in North America.

Japan: U.S. beef and pork exports to Japan benefitted from implementation of the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, which reduced tariffs on U.S. meat exports to the same rates as those paid by Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) suppliers and the European Union. The U.S. and Japan subsequently [modified](#) the trade-restrictive safeguard on U.S. beef. The agreement establishes a three-trigger mechanism whereby [three criteria](#) must be met in order for Japan to implement the safeguard and impose a temporary, higher tariff on U.S. beef, rendering it less likely that U.S. beef will face higher tariffs moving forward. NAMI provided input on the safeguard mechanism and supports its implementation.

European Union and United Kingdom: U.S. beef exports benefitted from the establishment of a U.S.-specific share of the European Union’s duty-free High-Quality Beef Quota, which took effect January 1, 2020. Under the agreement, the U.S.-specific share will grow to 35,000 metric tons annually. However, the EU and UK remain largely closed to U.S. meat and poultry due to high tariffs, restrictive quotas, and sanitary barriers. The EU’s bans on hormone growth promotants, FDA-approved beta agonists, and the preponderance of U.S.-approved pathogen reduction treatments limit U.S. meat exports. The EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy is also concerning in its potential to restrict market access for U.S. meat and poultry products. The EU’s proposed on-farm requirements are equally problematic. NAMI is also working with USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service to address the EU’s enforcement of its Deforestation-Free Supply Chain Regulation, which would impose excessive, costly, and unwarranted record-keeping, traceability, and product segregation requirements on U.S. agricultural producers, particularly beef and livestock producers.

Despite the progress made in U.S.-UK trade negotiations, the UK remains opposed to hormones used in beef production and pathogen reduction treatments used in U.S. poultry production. NAMI has supported efforts in Congress to press for a FTA with the UK, but has remained clear that market access barriers – both tariff and non-tariff – on U.S. agricultural exports must be reduced or eliminated.

Taiwan: Taiwan in January 2021 agreed to open its market to U.S. beef sourced from cattle over 30 months of age and agreed to establish MRLs for ractopamine used to raise hogs. However, trade impediments persist, including Taiwan’s ban on ground beef, trimmings, and certain offal, and restrictions on beef imported from Canada and fed in the U.S. for less than 100 days. Additionally, Taiwan instituted an onerous country-of-origin labeling regulation for imported pork, which undermines additional access U.S. pork receives from the establishment of MRLs for ractopamine. In June 2022, the U.S. and Taiwan announced a new initiative to deepen trade between the two countries. NAMI submitted [comments](#) in support of this initiative.

Indo-Pacific: The Biden Administration announced an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework to deepen cooperation and economic ties with the Indo-Pacific region. NAMI submitted [comments](#) in response to USTR’s *Federal Register* notice collecting input on the Framework. The comments stressed the importance of enhancing market access for U.S. agriculture and meat and poultry products in the region by addressing both tariff and non-tariff barriers. The Framework intends to address non-tariff barriers to agriculture trade under its [Trade Pillar](#), and the first negotiations were held in Australia in December 2022 and subsequent rounds were held in early 2023. NAMI is leading meat and poultry industry coalition efforts in discussions with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the Foreign Agricultural Service to encourage U.S. government negotiators to use IPEF to address industry priorities, both in terms of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

OBJECTIVES: Ensure U.S. trade negotiations and resulting policies facilitate trade in meat and poultry products, by advocating for eliminating both tariff and non-tariff barriers that inhibit this trade, with a particular emphasis on sanitary and phytosanitary and technical barriers to trade.

ACTION STEPS:

- Coordinate with other agriculture and meat and poultry associations and key regulatory contacts, policymakers, and Members of Congress to prioritize meat and poultry trade.

- Conduct outreach to World Trade Organization members, prioritizing key U.S. trading partners, represented at their embassies in Washington, DC, and encourage the use and adoption of science-based, internationally-recognized standards when developing trade rules and regulations.
- Encourage, in coordination with other agriculture and meat and poultry associations, the U.S. government to improve or retain access for U.S. meat and poultry products in key export markets, and to identify opportunities to expand access to new markets.
- Expand outreach to, and collaborate with, international meat associations on issues confronting global meat and poultry trade.
- Support, as needed, the Meat Institute departments and sister organizations on international issues management.
- Inform members and other stakeholders about the importance of meat and poultry trade through targeted communications and activities, e.g. Trade and Market Statistics Data. Export data through April 2023 is available [here](#). Import data through April 2023 is available [here](#).