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## Mexico

### Agricultural Situation

# Mexico's Weekly Highlights and Hot Bites, May/1 2000

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**Report Highlights: Summaries of recent Mexican press articles and other developments including:**

- **FINAL A-D DECISION AGAINST U.S. BEEF**
- **U.S.- MEXICO FOOD SAFETY RESEARCH FORUM**
- **COLOMBIA & NUEVO LAREDO CONTINUE FIGHT OVER BRIDGE TRAFFIC**
- **USA RICE LINKS TRADE SUPPORT TO MAJOR FOOD SERVICE PROMOTION**

**and recent FAS/Mexico reports.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Mexico ATO [MX2], MX



Welcome to Hot Bites from Mexico, a weekly review of issues of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The topics covered in this report reflect developments in Mexico that have been garnered during travel around the country, reported in the media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Readers should understand that press articles are included in this report to provide insights into the Mexican "mood" facing U.S. agricultural exporters. Significant issues will be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office.

**DISCLAIMER:** Any press summary contained herein does NOT reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. Government agency's point of view or official policy.

### **FINAL A-D DECISION AGAINST U.S. BEEF**

On Friday April 28, the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development (SECOFI) issued its long-awaited final decision on the Mexican beef industry's antidumping (A-D) complaint against exporters of U.S. beef and edible beef offals by imposing a complex set of specific duties on most beef carcasses and cuts. The highest duty levels are \$0.07/kg for carcass beef, \$0.63/kg for boneless cuts and \$0.80/kg for bone-in cuts. Of particular note and distinct from the preliminary ruling announced in August 1999, Prime and Certified Angus beef are exempt from any duty, as are variety meats. However, Select and Choice beef must be certified as same, as well as that the beef was slaughtered within the last 30 days, otherwise the highest duties apply. The ruling also removes the discriminatory duty treatment among Mexican importers, unlike the preliminary ruling. For further information, see FAS/Mexico report MX0060. (Source: OAA/FAS/Mexico City)

### **U.S.- MEXICO FOOD SAFETY RESEARCH FORUM**

On May 2-3, a group of renown scientists from FDA and USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), were in Mexico City for the second major bilateral event regarding President Clinton's Food Safety Initiative. The purpose of the 2-day forum was to bring together the scientists and officials responsible for food safety research to discuss their current projects and future collaborative plans. The first U.S.- Mexico food safety event took place in September 1999 in Mexico City to officially present the Food Safety Initiative for Fresh Produce to Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic. In 1999, 40 percent of Mexico's total exports of agricultural, forestry and fishery products to the U.S. were fresh fruit and vegetables, valued at \$2.3 billion. (Source: OAA/FAS/Mexico City)

### **COLOMBIA AND NUEVO LAREDO CONTINUE FIGHT OVER BRIDGE TRAFFIC**

Although open for only two weeks, the new World Trade Bridge is causing problems between city officials of Colombia and Nuevo Laredo. According to a local news report, the Mexico's National Agriculture Council (CNA) announced that they will send all Mexican agricultural products crossing at Laredo over the Colombia bridge instead of the new World Trade Bridge at Nuevo Laredo. The two cities are 20 miles apart and connected to Laredo, Texas across the border by two separate bridges. The cities are also located in separate Mexican states and historically have fought over the significant revenues generated by the thousands of trucks crossings at Laredo every day. Since the opening of the

World Trade Bridge, there has been concern by Colombian government officials that they will lose a significant portion of the truck traffic crossing at Laredo/Nuevo Laredo. The Mayor of Nuevo Laredo has publically reported that he and his staff, along with private sector interests, will aggressively promote the use of the New World Bridge offering the same costs and better service. (Source: El Manana 4/30/00)

### **USA RICE LINKS TRADE SUPPORT TO MAJOR FOOD SERVICE PROMOTION**

As part of the USA Rice Federation's (USARF) month-long Mexican Rice Festival promotion with TOKS, a leading restaurant chain in Mexico, USARF contacted leading Mexican buyers of U.S. rice--including millers, packers and distributors--to announce the promotional campaign, and to encourage them to contact TOKS' buying agents as a means of linking USARF sales promotions with trade servicing activities. As a result, three Mexican suppliers of U.S. rice established new business contacts with TOKS' regional buyers. Consequently, U.S. rice sales have increased, and U.S. rice consumption prospects have improved in the Mexican food service industry. (Source: USARF-Mexico 5/3/00)

### **RECENT REPORTS SUBMITTED BY FAS/MEXICO**

Report#	Title	Date Sent
MX0058	Mexico's Weekly Highlights and Hot Bites, April/4	4/27/2000
MX0059	Emergency Rule to Control and Eradicate the Olive Fruit Fly in Baja California	4/27/2000
MX0060	Final Decision in Antidumping Case Against U.S. Beef	4/28/2000
MX0061	Mexico's Monthly Crop Update, April 2000	5/2/2000

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### **FAS/MEXICO EMAIL**

To reach us at FAS/Mexico City, email us at [AgMexico@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgMexico@fas.usda.gov), [ATO Mexico@fas.usda.gov](mailto:ATO Mexico@fas.usda.gov), or [agrnl@nld.bravo.net](mailto:agrnl@nld.bravo.net) for the FAS/Mexico office in Nuevo Laredo.

### **USEFUL MEXICAN WEB SITES**

Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGAR) can be found at [www.sagar.gob.mx](http://www.sagar.gob.mx) and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (SECOFI) can be found at [www.secofi.gob.mx](http://www.secofi.gob.mx) These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the

accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.