



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## Saudi Arabia

### Poultry and Products

## Kingdom Bans Imports of Live Poultry & Hatching Eggs From the U.S.

2004

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**Report Highlights:**

On March 13, 2004, the Saudi Government (MOA) imposed a ban on the importation of live U.S. birds, day-old-chickens and hatching eggs out of fear that they might be infected with the bird influenza (Avian).

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Riyadh [SA2]  
[SA]

## **Saudi Arabia Bans Imports of Live Poultry and Hatching Eggs from the US**

On March 13, 2004, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh the Saudi Government's decision to impose a temporary ban on imports of live poultry and hatching eggs from the United States due to infection of 85,800 five weeks old chickens at Kent and Sussex counties of Delaware by bird influenza (Avian). According to the Ministry's official letter, the Saudi Government based its decision to ban live poultry and hatching eggs from the US on reports it received from the Paris based World Organization of Animal Health (OIE). The OIE report, which the Ministry referred to, was posted on the organization's website on February 13, 2004.

On November 5, 2003, the Saudi Government imposed a similar ban on the importation of live U.S. birds including day-old-chickens out of fear that they might be infected with the West Nile Virus. As such, the content of the March 13 diplomatic note is similar to that of November 5 with the exception that the recent note added hatching eggs to the list of U.S. live poultry banned in the November official communiqué.

The Saudi Government's ban on imports of U.S. live poultry and hatching eggs will eliminate more than US\$ 2 million in revenue for U.S. companies involve in the exports of the products to the Kingdom.

### **The following table shows the U.S. poultry and eggs exports data to Saudi Arabia for 2003**

Product	Value in USD
Live poultry	\$ 842,000
Baby chicks	839,000
Eggs	2,563,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,244,000</b>

Source: U.S. Trade Statistics (FATUS Export Aggregations)

Following is unofficial translation of the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs Diplomatic Note Sent to the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ref: 96/33/11449

Date: 22/1/1425 Hijri (March 13, 2004)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in Riyadh and would like to inform the Embassy that instructions have been passed to impose a temporary ban on importing alive poultry and hatching eggs from USA due to bird influenza, and that the ban shall remain until the assurance that the disease no longer exists there. The source of information is the report number 7 volume 17 of the OIE in Paris published on February 13, 2004 indicating infection of 85,800 five weeks old chickens at Kent and Sussex counties of Delaware, USA.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America in Riyadh the assurances of its consideration.

End of Report