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Australia

Livestock and Products

Emerging Goat Meat Industry

2005

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Report Highlights:

Australia has developed a substantial goat industry and is now considered to be the world's largest goat meat exporter. Reflecting the underlying growth in goat meat production and exports in recent years, Australian exports reached a record high for the first four months of 2005. Total goat meat shipments for the January – April period totaled 6,960 MT (shipped weight), 32% higher than the same period last year. The United States was the major destination, receiving 56% of goat meat shipments during the first four months of 2005. Live goat exports are mostly destined for Malaysia.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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Canberra [AS1]
[AS]

General Background

The Australian goat meat industry has registered substantial growth in recent years and is now an established and well-recognized industry. The industry traditionally derived most of its output from feral goats (also known as rangeland or wild goats); however, there has been a general shift towards goat farming using introduced genetics.

Historically, the goat industry in Australia was focused on wool and dairy. The extensive feral goat population was a result of cashmere, dairy and mohair goats being released when the dairy and mohair industries failed to develop in Australia during the late 1800s. Wool and dairy goats continued to be kept on a small scale.

Current goat farming in Australia largely originated with the introduction of the South African Boer goat in the mid 1990s. The breeding of Boer crosses to find a breed with meat characteristics and that is suited to Australian conditions has revolutionized the Australian goat industry. More limited research has been conducted on goat breeding as regards feed conversion ratios, carcass characteristics or gross margins.

Australia is considered to be the world's largest exporter of goat meat, but accounts for less than 0.1 percent of the world's goat meat production. According to Post's research, the United States is the largest import market.

Ethnic communities have traditionally driven demand for goat meat. However, with growing concern over healthy diets, more people are being attracted to goat meat because of its low fat and cholesterol content.

Stocks

Official statistics on goat numbers in Australia are not available due in part to the large number of feral goats that are utilized within the goat industry. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has published the following data on goat numbers:

Stocks (Thousand head)							
Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Australia	220	220	260	295	400	420	420
World	696,071	709,241	722,976	736,332	751,824	765,311	780,100

FAOSTAT data, 2004.

Goat Meat Exports

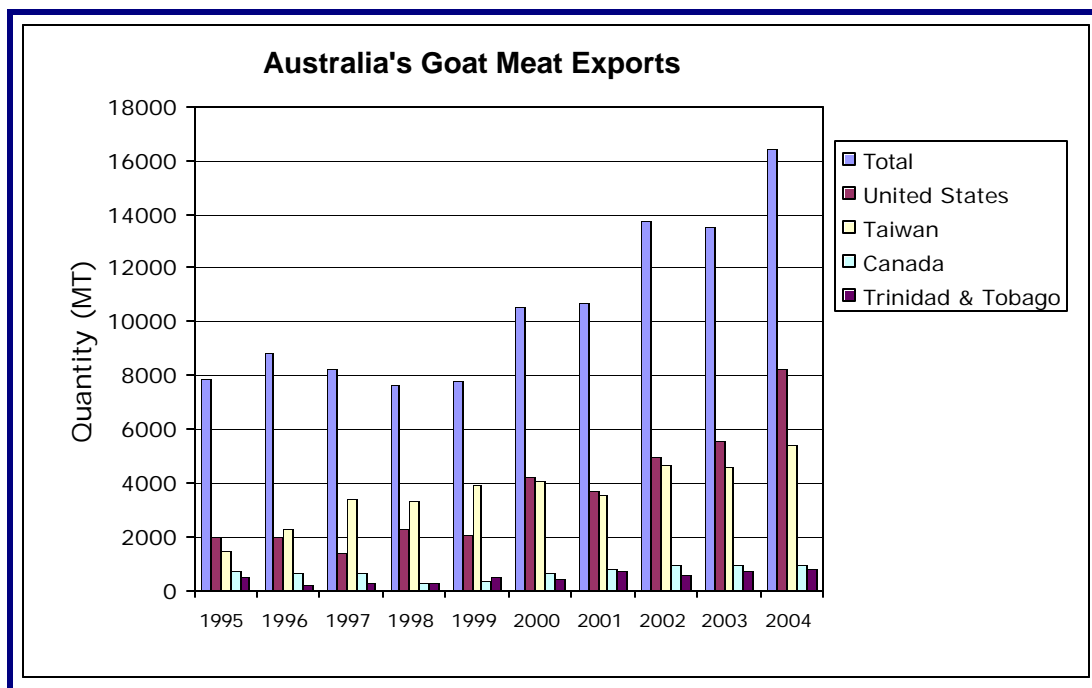
Australian exports of goat meat have grown at an average of 9.5% every year since 1995 and indications are that exports will continue to grow. The industry is currently valued at A\$54.7 million (US\$41 million) and is supported heavily by producers in Western Australia. Some industry sources believe goat meat is the next major growth area in livestock trade.

According to Meat and Livestock Australia, which represents the interests of the domestic industry, goat meat exports reached a record high level during the first four months of 2005. Total shipments for the January – April period totaled 6,960 MT (shipped weight), 32% higher than the same period last year, and 15% higher than the previous record set in 2002. The United States received 56% of shipments for the January – April period. There was no change in the U.S. import tariff for Australian goat meat under the FTA as goat meat already entered at a zero tariff.

Taiwan and the Caribbean received 1,610 MT (shipped weight) and 690 MT (shipped weight), respectively, of Australian goat meat during the first four months of 2005, up 44% and 27% respectively from the year-earlier period. Shipments to Canada remain steady.

The international trade in goat meat is very small when compared with total world production and Australia has a dominant market share of this trade. The main competitor for Australian product in world markets is New Zealand, which exported 1,198 MT of goat meat in 2004 according to NZ trade statistics.

Australian Exports			
Meat Of Goats, Fresh, Chilled Or Frozen			
Partner Country	Quantity (MT)		
	2002	2003	2004
Total	13773	13505	16393
United States	4971	5546	8254
Taiwan	4670	4602	5385
Canada	979	967	954
Trinidad & Tobago	564	701	784
Korea South	181	182	161
Mauritius	45	89	158
Japan	130	177	155
Jamaica	425	145	124
Malaysia	260	169	76
Reunion	78	295	69
Puerto Rico (U.S.)	71	132	67



Live Exports

Australia has a large export trade in live animals, particularly cattle (637,748 head in 2004) and sheep (3,397,140 head in 2004), but also goats (50,486 head in 2004, down 63% on 2002 numbers). Saudi Arabia was an important export market in recent years; however, the collapse of the Saudi market in 2003 severely impacted trade in live goats. Malaysia is currently the major market for Australia's live goat exports.

In 2004, Western Australia accounted for 61 percent of live exports, the majority of which were destined for Malaysia, followed by South Australia, which contributed 27 percent.

Australian Exports Goats, Live			
Partner Country	Quantity (Number)		
	2002	2003	2004
Total	136125	70913	50486
Malaysia	52755	38675	33397
Singapore	2421	2965	8377
Brunei Darussalam	2899	3419	3240
Mauritius	2200	0	3000
Kuwait	779	665	537
Vietnam	0	0	500
Philippines	100	228	473
Thailand	0	189	375
United Arab Emirates	3869	20	319
Taiwan	0	88	138
Indonesia	0	74	64
Brazil	0	0	46
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	0	0	13
United States	19	14	7
Saudi Arabia	59758	14140	0

