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Qatar

Livestock and Products

The Government of Qatar Lifts Import Restrictions on U.S. Beef

2008

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Report Highlights:

The Government of Qatar recently informed the U.S. Embassy in Doha and the Agricultural Trade Office in Dubai that it has harmonized its import requirements for U.S. beef with the provisions of the World Animal Health Organization. The decision allows for the resumption of beef exports to Qatar after import restrictions were imposed following the detection of BSE in the United States in 2003. Exports of U.S. beef peaked at nearly \$3.0 million in 2002. Recent hotel and restaurant sector expansion along with dramatic income growth in recent years are expected to lead to new opportunities for U.S. beef.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Dubai [TC1]
[QA]

The Government of Qatar recently informed the U.S. Embassy in Doha and the Agricultural Trade Office in Dubai that it has harmonized its import requirements for U.S. beef with the provisions of the World Animal Health Organization. The decision allows for the resumption of beef exports to Qatar after import restrictions were imposed following the detection of BSE in the United States in 2003.

USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service has updated its export library with the new import requirements for Qatar. Qatari officials have stated that they will accept the standard FSIS health certificate as supporting documentation for imported beef.

Qatar is a small market for U.S. beef. However, the restaurant and hotel sectors in Doha are growing and ATO Dubai has received numerous requests from exporters and importers concerning the status of beef exports over the past few years. Exports of U.S. beef peaked at nearly \$3.0 million in 2002, but could soon increase beyond that level in light of the dramatic increase in per capita income in Qatar and the new opportunities in the restaurant and hotel sectors.