



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 3/14/2000

GAIN Report #SA0008

## **Livestock and Products**

# **Saudi Arabia Imposes Ban on Imports of Beef and Dairy Products from Denmark 2000**

Prepared by:

**John H. Wilson**

**U.S. Embassy**

Drafted by:

Hussein B. Mousa

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### **Report Highlights:**

**Saudi Arabia recently imposed a ban on imports of beef, beef derivatives, and dairy products from Denmark because of the discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Northern Jutland. The ban is relatively insignificant for the Danish beef industry, but is devastating for Denmark's dairy industry. The Danish Embassy in Riyadh is anxious to begin negotiations with the Saudis on this matter, but must wait until government offices re-open in late March following the Haj holidays.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes  
Unscheduled Report  
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### ***Saudi Arabia Bans Imports of Beef and Dairy Products from Denmark***

The Saudi Ministry of Commerce issued a circular to Saudi traders on March 6, 2000 announcing a ban on imports of beef, beef derivatives, and dairy products from Denmark because of the discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or "Mad Cow" disease in Northern Jutland, Denmark. The circular directed Saudi traders not to import these products directly or indirectly from Denmark.

While the ban is relatively insignificant to the Danish beef industry, it is devastating to Danish exporters of dairy products. In 1998, Saudi Arabia imported only 28 metric tons (MT) of beef from Denmark. However, Danish exports of dairy products to Saudi Arabia in 1998 totaled 642 million Danish Kroner, representing 53 percent of total Danish agricultural exports to the Kingdom. See table below.

Qatar has followed Saudi Arabia's lead by banning Danish beef, beef derivatives, and dairy products. The Gulf countries of Oman, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates have imposed a ban only on beef and beef derivatives from Denmark, according to sources.

Because of BSE-related problems, Saudi Arabia continues to maintain a strict ban on imports of beef and beef derivatives from the following countries:

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| - United Kingdom    | - Austria      |
| - France            | - Portugal     |
| - The Netherlands   | - Luxembourg   |
| - Germany           | - Switzerland  |
| - Belgium           | - South Africa |
| - Denmark (new ban) |                |

The Saudi government has banned additional products from some of the aforementioned countries due to BSE-related problems. Such products include live animals, bull semen, and in some cases dairy products. The Saudis have not banned beef and beef derivatives from Ireland, but continue to ban imports of live animals and bull semen from this country.

Earlier this week, the Ministry renewed its ban on most imports of foodstuffs from Belgium, imposed last year because of dioxin-contaminated feed.

### ***Danish Agricultural Exports to Saudi Arabia, 1997-98***

<i>Products</i>	<i>1997</i>		<i>1998</i>	
	<i>MT</i>	<i>1,000 DKK</i>	<i>MT</i>	<i>1,000 DKK</i>
<i>Beef &amp; Veal</i>	627	5,718	28	968
<i>Poultry Meat</i>	840	8,141	24	186
<i>Canned Meat Products</i>	1,012	12,858	781	10,946
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>26,717</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>12,100</b>
<i>Butter</i>	6,388	102,270	6,635	122,885
<i>Cheese</i>	19,754	328,801	15,230	325,781
<i>Milk Products</i>	11,930	210,990	7,806	138,318
<b><i>Total Dairy Products</i></b>	<b>38,072</b>	<b>642,061</b>	<b>29,671</b>	<b>586,984</b>
<b><i>Other Animal Products</i></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>115,469</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70,857</b>
<i>Grain</i>	93,992	76,689	-	-
<i>Seed</i>	12	1,379	16	1,588
<i>Potatoes</i>	300	1,397	575	2,230
<i>Fresh and Frozen</i>	46	343	47	384
<i>Vegetables</i>	-	3,811	-	-
<i>Other Vegetable Products</i>		123,120		365,582
<i>Processed Foods</i>				
<b><i>Sub-Total</i></b>	<b>94,350</b>	<b>206,739</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>369,787</b>
<b><i>Grand Total</i></b>	<b>134,901</b>	<b>990,986</b>	<b>30,567</b>	<b>1,027,628</b>
<i>Machines for Agro-Industry</i>		76,490		80,876
<b><i>Total Danish Exports to Kingdom</i></b>		<b>1,067,476</b>		<b>1,108,504</b>

Source: Royal Danish Embassy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

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