

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Date: 6/8/2011

GAIN Report Number:

Bulgaria

Post: Sofia

Kosovar Inspector Releases US Poultry Shipment

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Other

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Report Highlights:

FAS/Sofia's intervention resulted in Kosovar Food and Veterinary Agency's release of three containers of US chicken leg quarters worth about \$100,000.

General Information:

On June 7, 2011, Inspectors of the Kosovar Food and Veterinary Agency (KFVA) Released the Pilgrim's Pride Chicken Shipment. On May 21, the shipment of three containers of chicken legquarters was held at the border of Albania and Kosovo due to incorrect production and expiration dates on the containers.

At first, the Kosovar authority didn't want to allow the shipment to enter Kosovo but to return the shipment back to the United States. After several round of negotiations with the KFVA's CEO and close consultations with FSIS and FAS/W, FAS/Sofia agreed to sent a letter to the KFVA's CEO to confirm the authenticity and accuracy of Pilgrim's Pride letter on the correct production and expiration dates; and to assure the KFVA's CEO that the product, at the time of certification, met all U.S. federal requirements and is determined to be safe and wholesome. The letter satisfied the Kosovar competent authority. As a result, the KFVA's CEO ordered the release of the shipment on June 7, 2011.

These three containers are worth about \$100,000 and originated from Houston.