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Canada

Market Promotion/ Competition

Pork Inspection and Food Safety Agreements Signed with Chile

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Report Highlights:

Recently in Ottawa, the Canadian and Chilean Ministers of Agriculture signed the bilateral agreements on pork inspection, plant and animal health, and food safety that were agreed to last year during a Canadian trade mission to Chile. The Canada/Chile Free Trade Agreement of 1997 grants Canada 4,000 metric tons of duty-free access to the Chilean pork market. Under the newly signed agreement on animal health, pork originating from any Canadian federally-inspected establishment will be permitted to enter Chile.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Ottawa[CA1], CA

On May 6, 1999, in Ottawa, Canada's Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister, Lyle Vanclief and his Chilean counterpart, Carlos Mladinic signed the bilateral agreements on pork inspection, plant and animal health, and food safety that were agreed to during Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) trade mission to Chile in September 1998 (see Pork Plants, CA8049, 8/8/98).

In a press release, Minister Lyle Vanclief stated that he and his counterpart Carlos Mladinic discussed a variety of agricultural issues in Ottawa, including the signing of agreements on pork inspection, plant and animal health, and food safety.

"As Canada's key trading partner in Latin America, Chile holds huge opportunities for Canadian farmers and food processors," said Mr. Vanclief. "The cooperation displayed today is a good indication this potential will be realized." The Canadian Agriculture Minister expressed satisfaction that key deals on food inspection were finalized.

The agreement on pork allows products from any Canadian federally-approved establishment to enter Chile. Prior to the deal, Chile only allowed imports of Canadian pork from plants it had inspected and approved. According to AAFC, Canada exported C\$ 1.5 million in pork to Chile in 1998. The Canada/Chile Free Trade Agreement of 1997 provided Canada with a duty-free tariff rate quota (TRQ) for pork cuts of 3,000 MT which increased to 4,000 MT in 1998. Over-quota tariffs on pork will be phased-out over 10 years. Edible pork offal and liver will be duty-free in 5 years.

The second agreement aims to improve communication and technical cooperation between the two countries in plant and animal health and food safety. It supercedes a phytosanitary agreement signed in 1991 and a 1989 agreement on fresh fruits and vegetables and reportedly includes the transfer of diagnostic testing technologies from Canada to Chile. In order to make the two-way flow of goods easier, the Chilean government will use many of the same plant, animal and food testing procedures as Canada. In addition, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency will share with Chile informatics and detection inspection procedures to reduce shipment clearance time and facilitate the effective management of risk associated with passenger and commercial traffic.

The Ministers also discussed a new Chilean farm safety net system developed in cooperation with Canadian officials. Chile has designed and is ready to implement a safety net system based on Canada's Net Income Stabilization Account and Crop Insurance programs. In Ottawa, the Ministers discussed the possibility of Canadian officials acting as advisors to the government of Chile on the system during its first few years of operation.

According to the press release, other topics discussed by Ministers Vanclief and Mladinic included the implementation of the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement signed in 1997, continuing cooperation in negotiations to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas, preparations for the soon to be resumed Biosafety Protocol negotiations and the upcoming round of agricultural negotiations of the World Trade Organization.

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