

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** South Africa Bans Poultry Imports from South Carolina

**Country:** South Africa - Republic of

**Post:** Pretoria

**Report Category:** Poultry and Products, Trade Policy Incident Report, Trade Policy Monitoring

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**Report Highlights:**

On April 9, 2020, the United States reported an outbreak of a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in the state of South Carolina. The South Carolina poultry industry represents 40% of all agriculture in the state and accounts for 80% of animal agriculture. Subsequent to the U.S. notification to the OIE, on April 14, 2020, the South African Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) notified the U.S. Department of Agriculture that trade restrictions on chicken products from South Carolina would be instituted.

## Background

On April 9, 2020, the United States reported an outbreak of a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The reported case was found in a commercial turkey farm in Chesterfield county, South Carolina. In the report to the OIE, the U.S. Department of Agriculture stated that the infected premises have an epidemiological link to another South Carolina premises that was recently affected by Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI). The virus killed 1,583 turkeys and the remaining 32,577 birds have since been euthanized. The last time the United States experienced a worse HPAI outbreak was during the years 2014/2015 when 50 million birds were affected. The majority of the flock was layers, and were killed due to the bird flu.

The South Carolina poultry industry represents 40% of all agriculture in the state and accounts for 80% of animal agriculture. Sales represent US\$1.5 billion per year. South Carolina averages 235 million broilers in production each year and ranks 13th in the United States for broiler production.

**Figure 1: Map of South Carolina Counties**  
(Chesterfield County is identified in blue)



Source: Geology.com

### **South Africa Bans Chicken Imports from South Carolina**

Subsequent to the U.S. notification to the OIE, on April 14, 2020, the South African Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) notified the U.S. Department of Agriculture that trade restrictions on chicken products from South Carolina would be instituted.

The ban is applicable to day old chicks, fertilized/hatching eggs, table eggs and poultry meat. This ban will be in force until 90 days after a stamping out and implementation of biosecurity measures policy has been carried out, and officially lifted by the South African Veterinary Authority in writing. Furthermore, shipments of poultry meat that were exported from the South Carolina port but produced and sealed in other states will be allowed entry into South Africa, while consignments that were sealed in South Carolina will not be allowed entry. Consignments that were produced and sealed in South Carolina after March 17, 2020 will be rejected and returned to the USA or destroyed at the cost of the importer.

### **United States Chicken Meat Exports to South Africa**

South Africa is an important export market for the U.S. chicken. During the calendar year 2019, the United States exported 89,598 tons of chicken meat to South Africa valued at US\$79.7 Million. In addition to the ban on imports from South Carolina, poultry imports from the United States into South Africa are experiencing delays because of the impact COVID-19 pandemic's impact. DALRRD requires USDA food safety officials to verify all copies of USDA export certificates submitted by South African importers because original documents are delayed by the absence of courier services.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.