



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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United Arab Emirates

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

UAE To Ban All EU and Eastern European Beef

Products

2001

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Report Highlights:

Given continued concerns with BSE and its effect on beef from Europe, UAE authorities are on the verge of announcing a total ban on beef sourced from Europe. The country most affected by this looming ban will be Ireland; and conversely, U.S. suppliers could capture some of the market share lost by Irish suppliers.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Dubai [TC1], TC

Because of serious concerns about BSE, on January 9, 2001, the UAE Food Technical Committee recommended to the Council of Directors of UAE Municipalities that meat imports from all European countries, including Eastern Europe, banned effective immediately. The council is expected to approve the recommendation and make it law in the very near future. This will prove a big blow to Irish meat suppliers since Ireland is, by far, the largest supplier of higher quality beef to the United Arab Emirates, and the second largest supplier overall, after India.

This action now makes more regular cuts of U.S. beef more attractive though heretofore all U.S. beef exports to the UAE and other GCC markets have been only choice, top-end products. In 1998, Ireland exported about 3,600 MT of beef to the UAE. No question, the U.S. will still face stiff competition from Australia to supply the quantity of beef previously exported by Ireland. Although New Zealand is not banned from exporting beef to this market, a representative from the New Zealand Trade Office in Dubai noted that NZ is not a major producer of beef and that their suppliers usually commit their production well in advance to their customers in the beef business.

U.S. exports of beef to the UAE have been steadily increasing over the recent past, and are likely to have surpassed \$5 million in 2000, a record level, up to this point.