

Prioritization of the Sanitary Issues Limiting Exports of US Live Animals and Germplasm



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Implementation of the Uruguay Round S&P Provisions

- Basic rights
- Risk assessment
- Equivalence
- Regionalization
- Harmonization
- Transparency
- Dispute Settlement



Fulfillment Costs

- “In the case of a trade agreement ... information, negotiation and monitoring/enforcement costs can be designated fulfillment costs -- those costs associated with ensuring that the benefits expected from a trade agreement are actually realized or fulfilled.” (Hayes and Kerr, 1997)
- Suggest fulfillment costs exceed the benefits of reducing nontariff barriers such as sanitary measures when handled on a country-by-country, disease-by-disease, and issue-by-issue basis



Methods for Identifying and Addressing Fulfillment Costs

- Collate existing regulations facing US exports of live animals and germplasm
- Collate regulations facing other exporters in potential markets
- Review scientific validity of regulations
- Evaluate regulations for more comprehensive approach to addressing barriers
- Prioritize potential efforts



Classification of Regulations

- Level of requirement: national, regional, herd, or individual animal
- Type of requirement: statement/certification, preembarkation treatment, testing, postarrival treatment



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Importing Country Regulations Facing US Live Animal and Germplasm Exports

- Available on the web for existing markets
- Appear by species by importing country
- Have a consistent shell of paperwork requirements across countries
- Exhibit little consistency within this shell across importing countries.
- Do not usually exist for potential markets



Importing Country Regulations Facing Other Exporters in Potential US Markets

- Some available through the web
- Also appear predominantly by species by importing country
- Little consistency across requirements
- Caution necessary regarding what does not appear in regulations



Existing Sheep Import Regulations

- 31 countries with requirements for US live sheep exports
- 6 countries with requirements for US ovine semen exports
- 1 country with requirements for US ovine embryo exports
- 76 diseases/conditions/agents mentioned in these regulations
- 939 individual requirements



Sheep Import Regulations Facing Other Exporters in Potential US Markets

- 4 importing country regulations for live sheep
- 2 importing country regulations for ovine semen
- 4 importing country regulations for ovine embryos



Conclusions from Sheep Export Regulations

- Potential gains from reformat of the regulations to single template with individual country variation noted
- Existing regulations appear to be a reasonable proxy for issues of concern to potential markets
- Range of requirements within one disease/agent/condition suggests potential gains



Conclusions from Sheep Export Regulations

- Scrapie ranked as the major barrier to US exports of live sheep, ovine semen, and ovine embryos.
- Johnes disease was a very distant second for live sheep and semen



Conclusions from Sheep Export Regulations

- Results correspond to current Veterinary Services activities for the US sheep industry
- However, the value of benefits to reducing these types of trade barriers pales in comparison to the value of defending livestock products markets from disease and disease-related embargoes



Comparisons to Other Species Still Need to Be Completed for Prioritization

- Live cattle database completed
- Bovine semen and bovine embryo databases close to completion
- Equine database would follow