

Meat Imports Reported Way Up Over Last Year

US meat imports are running well ahead of a year ago. Those covered by the Meat Import Law (mainly fresh or frozen beef and mutton) totaled 100.7 million pounds during February. That's double the February, 1969, total.

Australia remained the major supplier, accounting for 47.3 million pounds (46 per cent) of the total, compared to 18.7 million pounds (38 per cent) of the 50.4 million pounds total of February, 1969, according to the USDA.

February imports brought total imports covered by the Meat Import Law for the first two months to 225.2 million pounds, nearly one and one-half times the January-February, 1969, total.

Australia's share at 118.1 million pounds, accounted for 52 per cent of the total, compared to 25.4 million pounds, or 27 per cent of the 92.3 million pounds imported during the first two months of 1969.

Meanwhile, February imports of all beef and veal (these include canned, cured and prepared as well as those covered by the Meat Import Law) totaled 110.2 million pounds, up 80 per cent from a year earlier.

February pork imports, at 33.1 million pounds, were up 60 per cent from a year earlier. Lamb imports, at 2.9 million pounds, were nearly three times those of a year ago, and mutton and goat, at 5.2 million pounds, were nearly one and one-half times those of a year ago.

Total red meat imports for February, at 153.5 million pounds, were up 80 per cent from a year ago.

The two-month totals: Beef and veal imports, at 247.9 million pounds, up 120 per cent from a year ago; pork, 52.7 million pounds, up 65 per cent; lamb, 5.8 million pounds, 3½ times those of a year ago; mutton and goat, 12.2 million pounds, 117 per cent from a year ago.

US cattle and hog imports also continue up. Imports of live cattle, at 96,761 head during February, were up 17 per cent from a year ago. But, those im-

ported from Mexico, at 88,577 head, were up 24 per cent, while those from Canada, at 8,140 head, were off one-third from a year earlier.

February total brought cattle

imports for the first two months to 190,193 head, up 16 per cent from a year earlier. Those from Mexico at 183,192 head, up 22 per cent; imports from Canada at 15,959 head, down 27 per cent from a year earlier.

Meanwhile, hog imports, at 1,882 head during February, were five times the February, 1969, total and the January-February total, 3,368 head, were four times the January-February, 1969, total. All were from Canada, the USDA said.

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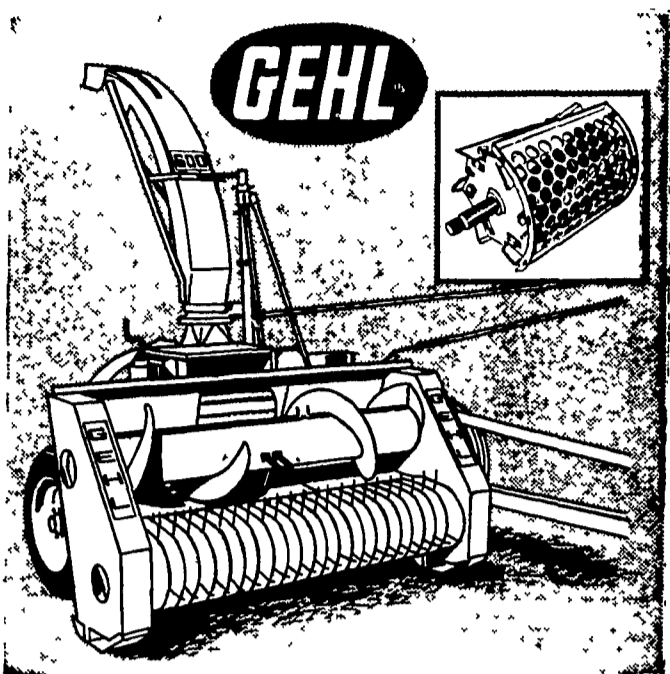
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