

Pork Producers, Packers File For Sanctions

Livestock Notes

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framed pigs. All carcasses had similar loin eyes, regardless of frame size. Neither classification system accurately predicted USDA carcass grade.

EEC Cuts Off Pork Imports

The European Economic Community has stopped all imports of pork from the United States. The reason? The EEC says our slaughtering facilities do not guarantee a safe and wholesome product.

Most people in the industry and in politics view this as a trade barrier and not a legitimate health concern. It is very similar to the action taken a few years back to stop all beef imports because we use growth promotants in our cattle. Scientific evidence shows no adverse effect on humans eating meat from cattle which had promotants. In the same vein, scientific research shows our slaughtering facilities are safe.

The Europeans heavily subsidize their farmers and try in every way possible to limit imports which would compete with domestically grown products. The international community has been very much opposed to any form of trade barriers so the Europeans have switched tactics and are now

using baseless health concerns to limit imports.

You can expect a lot more of this from the EEC as well as other nations like Korea and Japan. You can also expect retaliation from the U.S. Negotiators are currently trying to hammer out trade agreements which would open the entire world to free trade. At this time agricultural trade barriers are the sticking point, and there doesn't appear to be any solution in sight.

Alfalfa Weed Sprays

Generally, herbicides available for your use on alfalfa fields this winter include Sencor (Lexone), Sinbar, Velpar, Poast, Gramoxone Extra, and Kerb. Chickweed, especially, is coming on like a gangbuster in some fields. You should be monitoring weed growth and development in your alfalfa fields about twice a month from now until spring! A few pointers on some of these herbicides:

- Sencor: Can be applied this fall, or in the spring before growth starts. If impregnated on dry fertilizer, it may be used on alfalfa-grass mixtures. A low rate (0.38 qt. of the 4L) is good on chickweed. Not recommended on very-

shaly or very-sandy soils.

- Sinbar: 0.5 lbs. of the 80W is good on chickweed. This one also is risky on shale or sandy soils. A good choice where henbit, annual broadleaves, and grasses are present. Field must stay in alfalfa for 2 years after use.
- Gamoxone (paraquat): Safe on all types of soils, but it has no residual activity. Add a surfactant. Sometimes, during a mild winter, a Jan./Feb. application may be more-effective against chickweed than an earlier application. The weeds should be in active growth when it is used. If used soon this fall, a second application next spring may be necessary.
- Velpar: Slightly safer than Sencor or Sinbar on shale or sandy soils. Will kill or injure grasses. Best results if applied before the weeds exceed 2 inches in height. This one can also be applied in early spring. It has a 1-year restriction on rotating to corn.

DES MOINES, Iowa— The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) will file a petition calling for U.S. government to use its authority under Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act to retaliate on the European Community's (EC) ban on U.S. pork. The American Meat Institute (AMI) is joining in the petition to the U.S. Trade Representative's Office.

"The U.S. pork industry has used great restraint so that the EC and U.S. negotiators could eliminate this artificial trade barrier through consultations with the U.S. Trade Representative's Office," said NPPC President Mike Wehler. "However, the EC

has shown no willingness to use scientific standards as the guide for meat trade between our countries. Therefore, we are requesting formal action against the EC because U.S. pork producers refuse to stand by idly while the EC runs amok with unfair trade barriers against our product."

AMI President Patrick Boyle said, "The EC's ban of U.S. meat is a blatant trade barrier that has nothing to do with protecting consumers and everything to do with protecting subsidized European producers. This action totally violates the spirit of free trade and the EC's obligations under the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). It is critical that our government take every possible action to reverse this protectionist trade barrier."

The EC initiated its ban on U.S. pork products on November 1 after claiming that no U.S. meat processing or packing plants meet EC sanitation requirements. NPPC and other segments of the

U.S. meat industry say the EC action is a cover for an artificial trade barrier and that food safety is not an issue. More than two-thirds of the meat consumed in the EC does not comply with the artificial barriers imposed on imports of U.S. meat. Use of Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act would allow the United States to respond to the EC ban by placing restrictions on EC product entering the United States.

"Our petition is designed to get the EC to open its market -- not to close ours," Wehler said.

The EC has a history of creating barriers to block imports of U.S. meat. As a result, U.S. pork exports have steadily declined in the last five years. For example, the EC received 20 percent of the U.S. non-variety pork (meat from the muscle of the animal) exports in 1985. They have received less than 1 percent of such U.S. pork exports this year, and will receive none until the EC ban is lifted.

USDA Feeder Pig Grades

	#1	#2	#3
USDA carcass grade	2.5	3.1	3.8
10th rib fat, in.	2.0	1.5	1.7
Loin eye area, in	4.9	4.3	3.9
Growth rate, lb/D	1.6	1.6	1.6

Frame Size

	Large	Med.	Small
USDA carcass grade	2.5	3.0	4.0
10th rib fat, in.	1.2	1.5	1.5
Loin eye area, in.	4.7	4.7	4.4
Growth rate, lb/D	1.7	1.5	1.5



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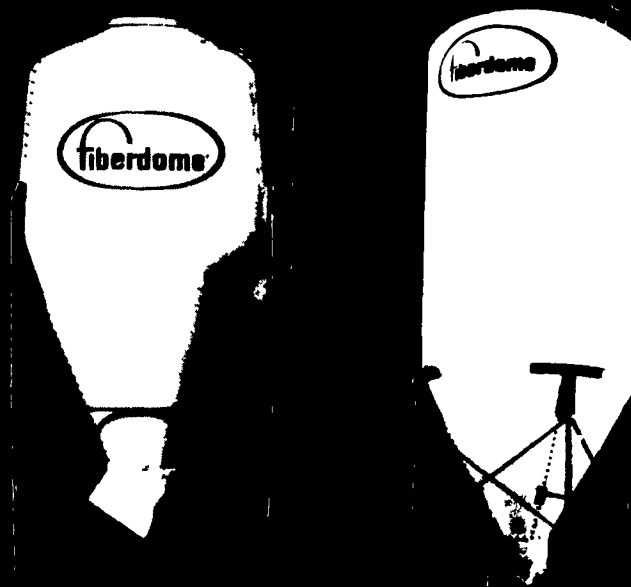


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