

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

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12 June 1990

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

Original: Spanish

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

Inventory of Domestic Policies and Trade Measures and Information on Bilateral, Plurilateral or Multilateral Commitments

Reply to Parts G and H of the Questionnaire

ARGENTINA

Revision

The participants have agreed to provide information concerning their domestic policies and trade measures including bilateral and plurilateral commitments on the basis of Parts G and H of the Questionnaire (Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure). The documents containing replies to these parts of the Questionnaire are circulated under the symbol IMC/INV; they are revised as and when changes are notified.

This set of documents constitutes the inventory of all measures affecting trade in bovine meat, including commitments resulting from bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations, which the Council has instructed the secretariat to draw up and keep up to date, under the provisions of Article III of the Arrangement (Note to Article III of the Arrangement and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure).

PART G

Part G: Information on domestic policies and trade measures

I. Production

(a) Characteristics of the bovine meat sector in Argentina

As mentioned in earlier reports, the main characteristic of bovine meat production in Argentina is that it is "natural", coming from animals which live "on the open range" from birth to slaughter and are pasture-grazed during both breeding and fattening.

The greater part of the herd consists of special breeds yielding high-quality meat that can be fully fattened on pasture by the age of two years.

As has already been mentioned, the annual net production coefficient (slaughter rate) of Argentina's cattle herd is approximately 24 per cent.

Cattle farming takes place in the framework of a free market, and production, consumption, exports and prices depend on the interaction between the supply of bovine cattle and demand by market operators for domestic consumption and export.

Eighteen per cent of bovine meat production is currently exported.

(b) Government policies and measures likely to influence directly production, other than support or stabilization measures

There are no subsidies for inputs or special credit or fiscal policies for producers.

Programmes exist for the improvement of production, by the National Institute for Farming Technology (INTA), through its experimental farms and technology dissemination centres located in the various producing regions of the country.

As far as animal health is concerned, there are major programmes for the control of cattle diseases, and in particular the extremely important National Plan for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease recently introduced by the National Animal Health Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, with the active participation of producers in the operational part of the Programme. The aim is to bring foot-and-mouth disease under control by 1992. This is the necessary prerequisite for eradication, so that efforts can continue on the basis of "controllable minimum risk".

As regards quality control, the National Meat Board grades about 75 per cent of cattle slaughtered in the country on the basis of appearance and fatness, and supervises technical and commercial specifications required by purchasers in meat-packing plants and shipping points for export.

(c) Support or stabilization measures

There are no such measures of any kind.

II. Internal Prices and Consumption

(a) Policies and measures affecting consumption

There are none. Consumption levels and prices are determined in a completely free market.

III. Measures at the Frontier

(a) and (b): Customs measures at tariff line level

At present, all types of bovine cattle and meat are subject to a zero import tariff.

Argentina does not apply variable levies, quantitative restrictions or any other kind of limitation on imports of these products.

(c) Export measures at tariff line level

The export levies, plus the statistical fee (3 per cent on f.o.b. value) and the levy of 1.5 per cent on f.o.b. value for financing the INTA, that will be in effect for the month of June 1990 are as follows for the main bovine meat items:

- half-carcasses, quarters and manufacturing type, bone-in	30.5Z
- cuts, bone-in	25.5Z
- half-carcasses, quarters and manufacturing type, boneless	24.5Z
- cuts, boneless, and controlled portions	22.5Z
- tinned meat and cooked and frozen meat	12.5Z

PART H

Part H: Information on bilateral or plurilateral agreements in the field of bovine animals, meat and offals

Periodic contracts, government to government, are in force with Israel, between the Argentine National Meat Board and the Israeli Ministry of Trade.

During 1990, two contracts have been concluded for the supply of "kosher" frozen forequarter beef cuts: the first for 4,300 tons product weight, boneless, in February, shipments from March to May; and the second for 12,000 tons product weight, boneless, shipments from June to December 1990.