

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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URUGUAY

Information Supplied in Respect of

BEEF AND VEAL

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A. Production: production measures and policies

A.1. Statistical data on total volume of production, total units of production and average yield per unit

A better indication of meat productivity is in terms of production per live animal, i.e. the quantity of meat per bovine animal (gross). Thus, about four and a half animals would be required in order to produce one ton of meat in carcass form.

Cattle Herd and Evolution Thereof

(in thousand head)

1900	6,827
1908	8,192
1916	7,802
1920	8,432
1930	7,128
1937	8,297
1946	6,821
1951	8,154
1956	7,433
1961	8,792
1966	8,109

A.2. Trends in production and estimates for 1970

Production is increasing slowly, at an annual rate of approximately 3 per cent.

A.3. Statistical data on carry-over stocks and stockpiles

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A.4. Factors which affect production

The cattle herd has remained fairly constant; feeding problems have an unfavourable effect, because the domestic livestock industry is largely based on extensive grazing on natural pastures; consequently there is a problem of seasonal shortage of fodder, sanitary problems relating to inadequate supervision of animals, and the problem of the average size of farming units, which is usually large, etc. The composition of the beef cattle herd is not satisfactory because there is only a small percentage of animals for breeding, and the rate of increase is low.

A.5. Policies and measures of governments or other bodies likely to influence production

Once the causes underlying the stagnation of production had been determined, it was decided, in the context of the agricultural and livestock plan and the Agricultural Research Centre, to introduce major technological

improvements that offer prospects for substantial progress in the bovine meat production sector. It should be emphasized that the numerous technical, economic and social problems that affect the refrigeration industry have unfavourable repercussions on production, causing various disruptions and difficulties. The unfavourable influence of weather conditions should also be borne in mind.

B. Protection and support measures and policies

B.I. Internal support measures and policies

There are no support measures or policies, and production is not restricted.

B.II. Measures at the frontier

Only pedigree animals for breeding are allowed to be imported.

C. Consumption and internal prices

C.1. Statistical data on consumption

Total consumption of fresh bovine meat is estimated at 150,000 tons annually, equivalent to 665,000 animals. The ratio between exports and consumption is 1 to 2, because on average, exports vary between 70,000 and 75,000 tons.

C.2. Trends in consumption and estimates for 1970

Despite the restrictions in force, consumption is tending to increase.

C.3. Retail and wholesale prices in major internal markets

Prices per 100 kilogrammes of fresh bovine meat are at present as follows:

- (a) Ur\$6,100 at the production stage,
- (b) Ur\$8,600 at the slaughterhouse stage,
- (c) Ur\$9,632 at the consumption stage.

C.4. Factors which condition the evolution of internal consumption

Supplies for the population of the Montevideo Department, which accounts for 50 per cent of total domestic consumption, are under monopoly under the Legislative Decree on the "Frigorifico Nacional". Bovine meat is cheaper than other types of meat, and as a result the consumption index is very high. Mutton and lamb consumption accounts for only 1 per cent of total meat consumption in the capital, and for 20 per cent of the total in the interior of the country.

C.5. Policies and measures affecting consumption

Consumption is not subsidized. In order to ensure larger exportable surpluses, the Executive has introduced restrictions in the form of slaughter quotas, according to the density of the population, at the rate of 85 kilogrammes per capita, and providing for certain periods in which cattle slaughterings are prohibited.

D. International trade and prices

The Uruguayan delegation will forward a later communication containing data under the heading "International Trade and Prices".