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CFIA Import Permit Delays – effect on US and Canada livestock producers

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Overview

• Founded in 1994

• Represents beef breed associations, livestock export companies and livestock exhibitions

• Responsible for
  – Government and industry relations
  – International market development
  – Coordinating genetic improvement programs
  – Domestic issues such as animal health, research, and the promotion of pedigreed beef cattle
CBBC

- Cattle Export Companies
- Breed Associations
- Livestock Fairs and Exhibitions
- Industry
- Government
- Foreign Trade
- Genetic Improvement
Canada Imports from USA Stats

- Bovine Imports (Beef)- $2,391,454
- Bovine Imports (Dairy)- 10,544,585
- Bovine Semen Imports (Beef)- $7,115,429
- Bovine Semen Imports (Dairy)- $788,097
- Poultry (live birds)- $40,671,287
- Poultry (Hatching Eggs)- $46,715,919

*Source: Agriculture Agri-Food Canada*
Change of procedure for issuing permits:

• CFIA modernization moved to a Centre of Administration model to issue Import Permits for livestock and genetic material from a number of species.
  – Formerly issued by regional offices
  – Traditionally issued in less than 5 days
  – Feb/April permits issued fluctuated 20-30 days
  – Currently 5-7 days (June/July)- non peak season
Timeline for beef producers

- Bull sales (Feb-March)
- AI collection process (additional time delay)
- Breeding season starts (April 1- for Jan calves)
- Testing requirements plus application for import permit (from USA to Canada) through CFIA.
  - Health tests valid for ~30 days
- Health tests often expired due to delay thus requiring re-testing at additional cost
Direct Impact

• Canadian producers miss opportunity to use new genetics.
• USA producers lose sales opportunity.
• Genetic progress impeded resulting in ripple effect impact for feedlots and beef quality.
• Frustration for producers who generally import 1-2 times per year and not on a regular basis.
Going Forward...

• New policy and procedures need to take into account the impact on producers and exporters.
• Need to maintain health protocols and not subject either US or Canada to increased risk.
• Promote easier and clear procedures for movement of agriculture and agri-food products between Canada and US- (eg: electronic permit issuing/communication)