



MEXICO – NEWS SCAN

Texas Blocks Canadian Beef Exports Through Texas - 2008/03

During the week of March 10, 2008, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples instructed his agency's livestock export facilities along the Mexican border to stop specific Canadian cattle from passing through those facilities into Mexico. Staples made the announcement after Canada and Mexico struck a deal earlier in the month that would allow resumption of imports of certain Canadian dairy and beef cattle under 30 months of age, including breeding stock.

Staples's concern stems from the fact that Mexico has not extended the same protocol to the US, which can only export US dairy heifers under the age of 24 months. The United States and Mexico are currently negotiating a trade agreement that would allow for the export of US breeding stock. In the meantime; however, Arizona and New Mexico have followed Texas' lead, and are refusing to admit specific Canadian cattle through their border facilities.

The AG and Food Branch of the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations is carefully monitoring the situation.

Sources:

Nelson, Aaron. "Texas Ag Commissioner Blocks Canadian Beef Exports Through Texas." The Brownsville Herald, March 10, 2008.

"Texas Says No to Cattle Destined for Mexico". CattleNetwork, March 12, 2008.