

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Romania

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EU lifts the export ban of Romanian pork

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Agricultural Situation

Livestock and Products

Approved By:

Hoa Van Huynh

Prepared By:

Ioana Stoenescu

Report Highlights:

Romania will be able to export starting in mid January 2011. After 5 years of intensive work and efforts, the Romanian authorities proudly announced that pork exports ban will be lifted.

General Information:

On December 6, the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (ANSVSA) announced that Romania gained the approval to export pork meat to the EU. After 5 years of intensive work and efforts, the Romanian authorities proudly announced that pork exports ban will be lifted and Romania will be able to export starting in mid January 2011.

According to [EU Commission Directive 2006/779](#), Romanian exports of live animals and meat to EU Member States were frozen due to the break-outs of Classical Swine Fever (CSF). Meanwhile, the Lohn system was an alternative for the local processors, which was allowing them to use raw materials from CSF-free countries for processing and export to EU.

Starting in September 2010, ANSVSA was actively working with the Romanian Association of Meat Processors and Romanian Pork Meat Association to unblock the intra-EU meat trade. The Romanian representatives requested in Brussels that Romania should be included in Decision 2008/855/CE, Annex - Part II and be able to export to the EU market.

During the period of July 18-22, 2011, The EC's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) conducted an audit in Romania, to evaluate the functionality of the channeling system for intra-EU trade with pork meat, system proposed as a way to free exports of quality pork meat from Romania to the EU from the units already enrolled in this system.

Based on the audit performed on July 18-22, the FVO made recommendation to the competent authority (ANSVSA) regarding the application of the Classical Swine Fever eradication program, as well as for the biosecurity and traceability systems necessary for the channeling system. By developing the channeling system for intra-EU trade, Romania needed to establish a network of farms, slaughterhouses and single units which comply with all the biosecurity and traceability standards, from which meat can be supplied to the EU market.

The FVO mission concluded that the proposed channeling system can function properly, but there were some minor amendments to be made. Following the FVO mission recommendations, ANSVSA submitted an action plan which was fully implemented by end of November.

Based on the latest report submitted by ANSVSA regarding the completion of the classical swine fever surveillance program and the development of the pig channeling system the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health in DG SANCO was able to come to the final decision and lift the ban on pork exports.

Romania will be able to resume pork exports to the EU and third countries after the decision provisions will be published in the EU Official Journal.

According to the Romanian Association of Meat Processors, exports could amount to around 100,000 MT, representing 25 percent of local production.

Smithfield Foods is the leader of the local producers and they strongly advocated for opening the EU market for Romanian producers. The investment made by the company in Romania at the end of 2009 amounted to USD600 million and expected to reach USD1.2 billion by 2012. The company currently owns 47 operational farms in Timis and Arad Counties, big part being Greenfield investments and the others being upgraded according to the latest EU standards. In addition, they own agricultural and feed mill divisions.