

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 9/6/2018

GAIN Report Number: NL8038

EU-28

Livestock and Products Annual

EU Pork Exports Forecast to Reach a New Record

Approved By:
Susan Phillips

Prepared By:
Bob Flach

Report Highlights:

The dry summer months and limited feed supplies are anticipated to accelerate the slaughter of cattle and hogs this year. As a result, more animals will be slaughtered than earlier forecast, but at a lower weight. In 2018, both beef and pork production are projected to increase. As domestic demand is stagnant, the additional volumes will either be stored or exported. The final volume of pork produced and shipped will largely depend on the demand from China. Deteriorating margins will press pork production, but sufficient competitive and exportable volumes will still be available for reaching a new export record next year. Only limited export growth is expected to other markets than China.

Executive Summary

Cattle & Beef

During 2018, both the dairy and beef cow herd are projected to decline. While this trend for the dairy herd is mainly based on restructuring within the sector, the beef herd is shrinking due to limited profitability. In Northern Europe, particularly in Ireland, France, Germany and Poland, both herds will also be cut due to limited feed supplies. This is anticipated to prompt farmers to slaughter their animals just before the winter period. As domestic beef consumption is stagnant, the elevated supply will likely be put in cold storage for postponed sales on the domestic or export market. While exports are supported by a weakening Euro against the US dollar, the demand from Europe's main markets, Turkey and Algeria is uncertain. Next year, slaughter is expected to fall back to average levels, with subsequent lower beef production, consumption and exports.

Swine & Pork

In 2016 and 2017, margins for breeders and fatteners were above average, and as a result the sow herd increased to nearly 12.2 million animals at the beginning of this year. With further improved fertility, this herd will produce a record crop and a subsequent record slaughter of 266 million hogs. However, low carcass prices and reduced local feed supplies will force farmers to slaughter their animals earlier at a lower weight. Nevertheless, pork production is estimated to reach a record level, of which the final volume depends on the uptake and eventual push back from the export markets. Due to a heavy reliance on the Chinese market, the EU sector is anxious to diversify its export destinations. Only limited additional volumes are forecast to be shipped to alternative markets such as Japan and Mexico. Deteriorating profit margins are projected to press production next year; however, sufficient volumes will still be available for reaching a new record level of export next year.

Policy

-On June 1, 2018, the European Commission (EC) published its legislative proposals for the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) beyond 2020. Farmers are particularly zealous about highlighting the increased pressure on their sector from potential beef import quotas that the EU intends to grant. The new CAP is likely to grant more responsibilities to the Member State (MS) governments and to continue coupled direct payments for beef.

-The negotiations of the EC with Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay) are ongoing. Reportedly, Mercosur asked for duty-free access for at least 130,000 MT of beef and the EC offered 99,000 MT. The CETA agreement came into force on September 21, 2017 and incrementally allows EU duty-free access for about 53,000 MT of Canadian beef and 75,000 MT of Canadian pork. The EC and Canada are still negotiating the veterinary details of the trade deal. On the EU meat export side, the EU and Japan came to a political agreement on December 8, 2017. This agreement will

allow the EU to substantially increase its beef exports to Japan and provide for duty-free access for pork and processed pork products; however, a range of practical details are still under negotiation between both parties.

-The first African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreaks occurred in Lithuania and Poland in early 2014. In recent months, numerous new outbreaks were found in Romania, mostly in backyard swine and wild boars, but also affecting large commercial farms. This situation is putting the EC and MS veterinary services on high alert. The EC is attempting to preserve its pork trade by seeking acceptance of regionalization with its Asian trade partners.

Cattle

Animal Numbers, Cattle	2017		2018		2019	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Total Cattle Beg. Stks	89,152	89,152	88,445	88,423	0	87,320
Dairy Cows Beg. Stocks	23,525	23,525	23,319	23,311	0	23,250
Beef Cows Beg. Stocks	12,342	12,342	12,273	12,303	0	12,220
Production (Calf Crop)	29,450	29,180	29,400	29,000	0	28,900
Total Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	118,602	118,332	117,845	117,423	0	116,220
Total Exports	1,048	1,047	1,150	1,050	0	1,000
Cow Slaughter	11,900	11,778	11,750	11,950	0	11,800
Calf Slaughter	6,600	6,593	6,600	6,500	0	6,500
Other Slaughter	8,780	8,657	8,800	8,750	0	8,600
Total Slaughter	27,280	27,028	27,150	27,200	0	26,900
Loss	1,829	1,834	1,795	1,853	0	1,800
Ending Inventories	88,445	88,423	87,750	87,320	0	86,520
Total Distribution	118,602	118,332	117,845	117,423	0	116,220

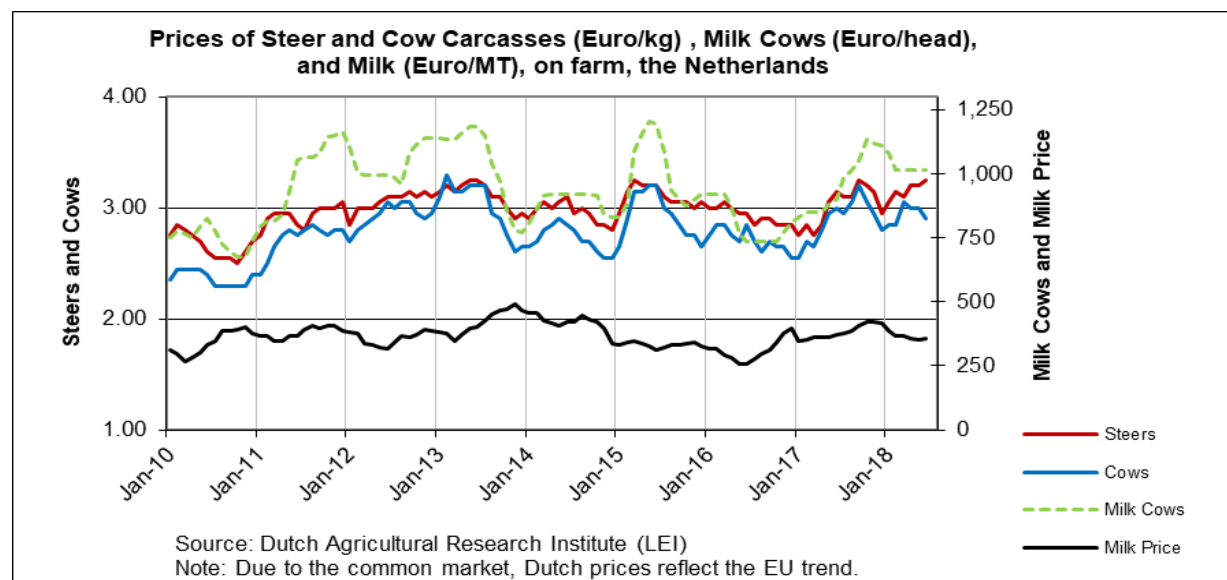
(1000 HEAD)

Not Official USDA data. Source: Eurostat and FAS Offices in the EU.

The dairy cow herd declines due to restructuring of the sector.

During the past eight years, the EU cow herd fluctuated between 35 and 36 million animals, with the dairy cow herd almost double the size of the beef cow herd. From 2017 to 2019, both herds are expected to decline. The dairy herd is forecast to decline most significantly in the Netherlands, France, Germany and Romania. The reduction of the Dutch herd is a result of the mandatory government program to reduce phosphate emissions. During 2017, Dutch dairy farmers had to cut their cow and heifer herd back to the size it was in July 2015. The enforcement was conducted by fines and bonuses. Despite many farmers having endorsed an official protest, most farmers complied and the execution happened as planned ^[1]. The French, German and Romanian dairy herds are declining due to a continuous restructuring of the sector, which includes a phasing out of the least efficient farms and animals. Falling milk prices since

the beginning of the year (see graph below) has encouraged this phase out. In Romania, the commercial sector is growing but cannot offset the decline of the backyard sector. The overall restructuring of the EU dairy sector is improving its efficiency ^[2].



Limited feed supplies are expected to further reduce the herd.

The dairy herd is forecast to expand in Ireland, Poland and Austria. But the current feed supply situation could be a hiccup for the structural expansion of the Irish and Polish dairy sectors in particular. In Northern Europe, from Ireland up to Poland, the sector experienced exceptional dry weather conditions during June and July. As a result, farmers missed about two cuts of hay, and more importantly will harvest a reduced corn crop for silage. This will affect the fodder availability up to the spring of 2019. In Austria, the sector was successful in generating additional margins by marketing their product as hay milk ^[3], and is expanding the number of animals. In contrast to Northern Europe, Southern Europe from Spain to Romania and Greece experienced above average growing conditions for field crops and fodder, but this is not expected to have a significant impact on the size of the dairy herd.

The beef cow herd declines due to limited profitability.

The beef cow herd is forecast to decline most significantly in France, Belgium, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Underlying reasons are rising feed costs and falling prices for both young and fattened animals. In the United Kingdom, the beef sector is also affected by Brexit, which due to uncertainty is limiting investment decisions. An expansion of the beef cow herd is forecast in Spain, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria. The expansion in these countries is supported by EU and Member State government subsidies. In Bulgaria, dairy industry reforms and targeted coupled-support subsidies continued to motivate unprofitable dairy farmers to switch over to beef

^[1] For more information see [GAIN report NL7006 - New Phosphate Reduction Plan Sets Limits to Dutch Dairy Production](#), published on February 9, 2017.

^[2] For more information see the latest [FAS Dairy Annual and Semi-Annual](#).

^[3] Cows graze on pasture in the spring and summer, and exclusively on hay during the winter to produce hay milk.

production. In Spain and Hungary, the future of the beef cattle sector mainly depends on whether the cattle exports to Africa and the Middle East can be sustained. During the first six months of 2018, EU exports of cattle rose by 26 percent, and most significantly to Turkey and Algeria. During the second half of the year, however, exports will likely be negatively affected by the fall of the Turkish Lira against the Euro. Exports to Algeria are not expected to be sustained as reportedly this market has been closed since July, in an attempt to control the outbreaks of Food and Mouth Disease in the country. Other third countries, such as Libya and Lebanon have been consistent markets for EU live cattle.

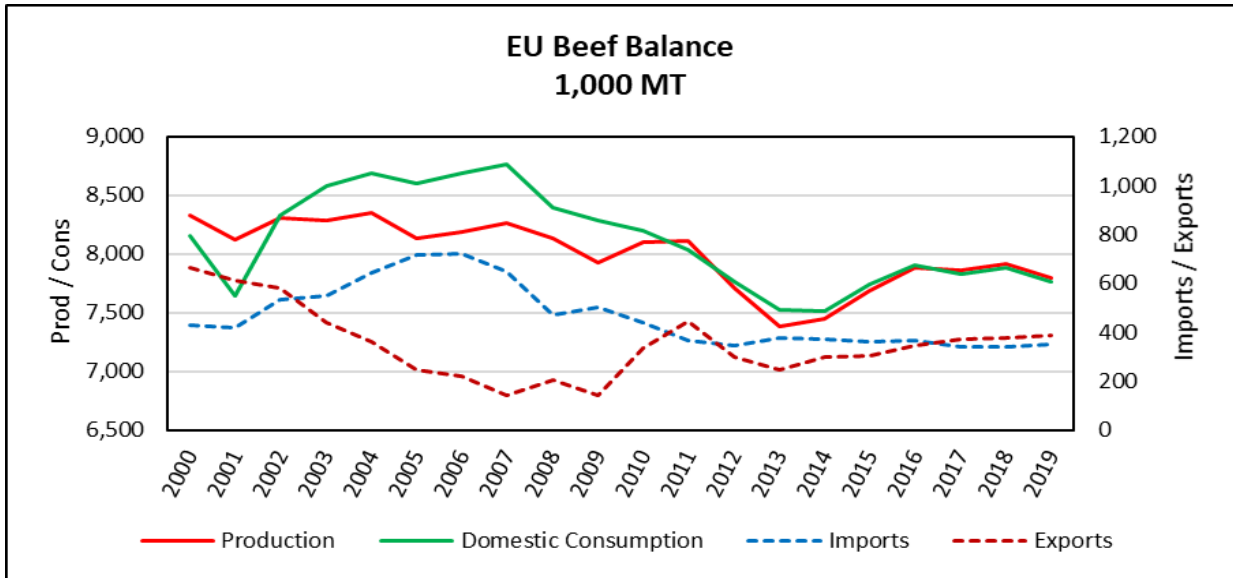
Restructuring and tight profit margins will elevate slaughter.

During the first half of this year official slaughter increased by 1.5 percent, almost solely due to the elevated slaughter of cows and heifers. The limited availability of feed is expected to further boost slaughter, in particular when the animals will be taken off pastures. In Italy and Poland, slaughter is also supported by an increase in imported cattle for fattening. Following a hike just after the summer, EU slaughter is forecast to fall down to lower levels. At the end of the year final slaughter is estimated to increase just 0.7 percent. Ending inventories will be reduced by 1.1 million head, the highest cut since 2010. With the lower beginning stock of dairy and beef cows, production of calves is projected to fall further next year. The most significant exceptions are Ireland and Poland where the cow herd is expanding with increased calf crop and slaughter levels.

Beef

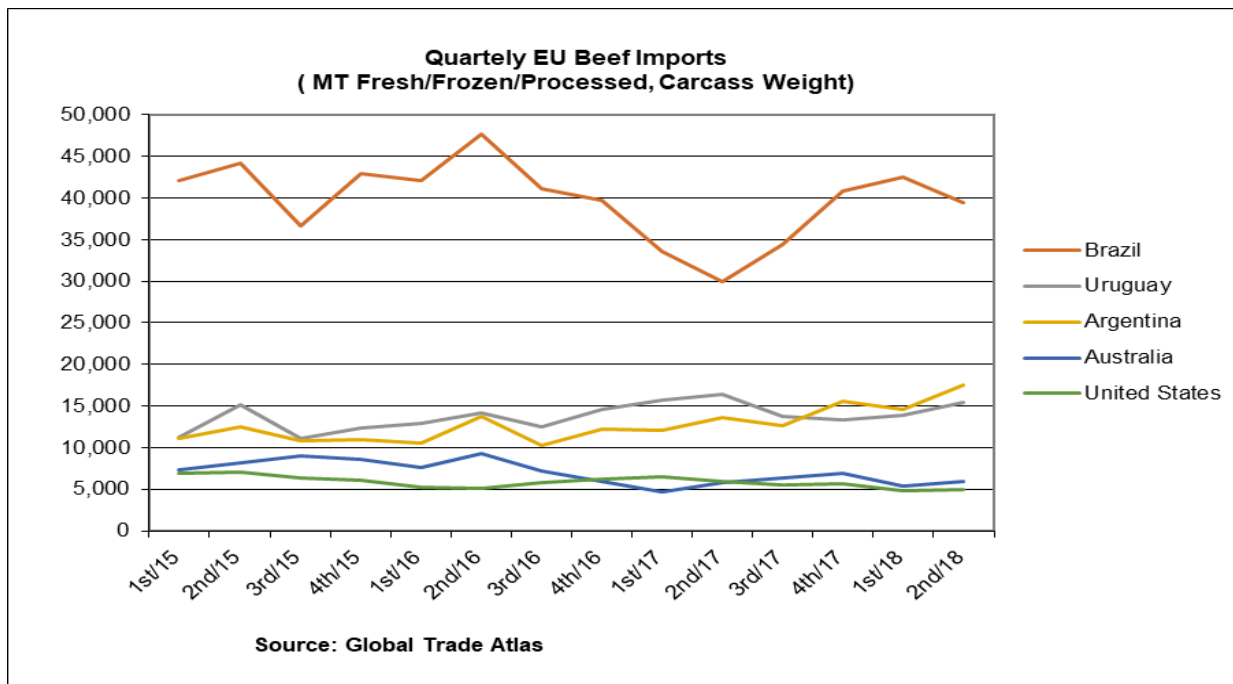
Meat, Beef and Veal	2017		2018		2019	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Slaughter (Reference)	27,280	27,028	27,150	27,200	0	26,900
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	7,900	7,863	7,855	7,915	0	7,800
Total Imports	338	338	340	340	0	350
Total Supply	8,238	8,201	8,195	8,255	0	8,150
Total Exports	367	369	370	375	0	375
Human Consumption	7,871	7,832	7,825	7,880	0	7,775
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Consumption	7,871	7,832	7,825	7,880	0	7,775
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	8,238	8,201	8,195	8,255	0	8,150
(1000 HEAD) ,(1000 MT CWE)						

Not Official USDA data. Source: Eurostat and FAS Offices in the EU.



Lower feed availability is expected to reduce average slaughter weights.

Based on elevated slaughter levels, EU beef production is forecast to increase in 2018, while the exact level of increase will be determined by the average slaughter weight. Official slaughter statistics report an increase of 0.4 percent during the first half year. Two factors will most influence the final slaughter weight. First the cow slaughter, and secondly feed availability. As cows are heavier than the average slaughtered animal, cow slaughter will increase the average weight. The shortage of feed is expected to sustain cow slaughter at a high level but will also result in lower slaughter weights for the beef animals. Overall, the slaughter weight is foreseen to level off to the same weight as last year, still resulting in the highest level of beef production since 2011. This meat will have to find an outlet either in the domestic or export market.

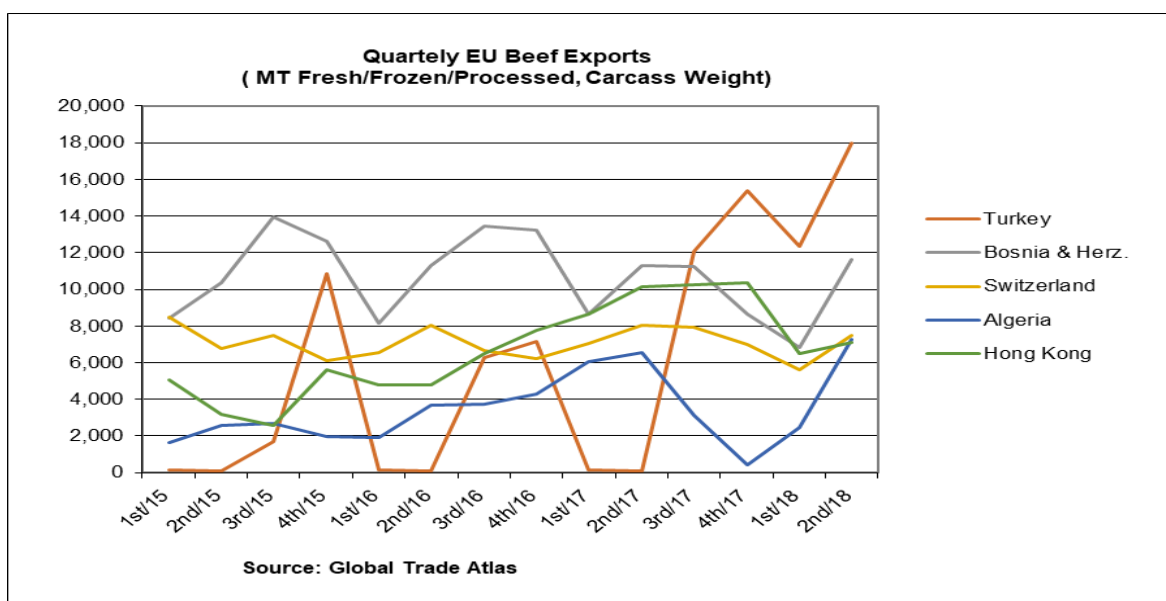


The EU has a shortage of high quality beef.

The EU beef market can be divided by quality: the high quality “steak” market sourced from beef animals and low quality beef, generally sourced from dairy cattle. The demand for high quality beef is slightly increasing due to strong demand by the food service sector, mainly in Germany and Italy. A part of this demand is supplied by imports of high quality beef from Argentina, Uruguay, Australia and the United States. These imports are, however restricted to the volumes of the zero duty High Quality Beef (HQB) Quota ^[4] (45,000 MT) and the 20 percent duty Hilton Quota (58,100 MT). The HQB beef quota is filled with grain fed beef from mostly the United States, Uruguay and Australia. Most of the Hilton quota is filled by beef imports from Argentina, Uruguay and Australia. Brazil is the main supplier of beef to the EU, which is for the largest part beef for processing (see graph above).

The oversupply of cow meat will partly be exported.

The consumption of cow meat is stagnant, and the elevated domestic supply is likely to be put in cold storage for postponed sales on the domestic or export market. Exports have shown a steady correlation with production during the past ten years. During the first half of 2018, exports were reduced by 8 percent, but based on the rising supply, exports are expected to pick up supported by the weakening euro against the US\$. EU beef is exported to a wide range of destinations. The export trend to the top-5 export markets is shown in the graph below. Spain is the main EU beef exporter to third countries. According to the Spanish beef industry, priority markets in 2018 and 2019 will be Asia (especially China if the EU is able to get the market open), Vietnam, Indonesia, and North Africa. Anticipating falling slaughter levels and weights, EU beef production is forecast to drop in 2019. Consumption as reported in the PSD will significantly drop next year as a result of retraction of volumes stored this year. Because of falling domestic production exportable supplies are also expected to drop next year.



^[4] For more information see GAIN Report E18036 – [Comparison of EU Tariff Rate Quotas for High Quality Bovine Meat](#), published on May 31, 2018.

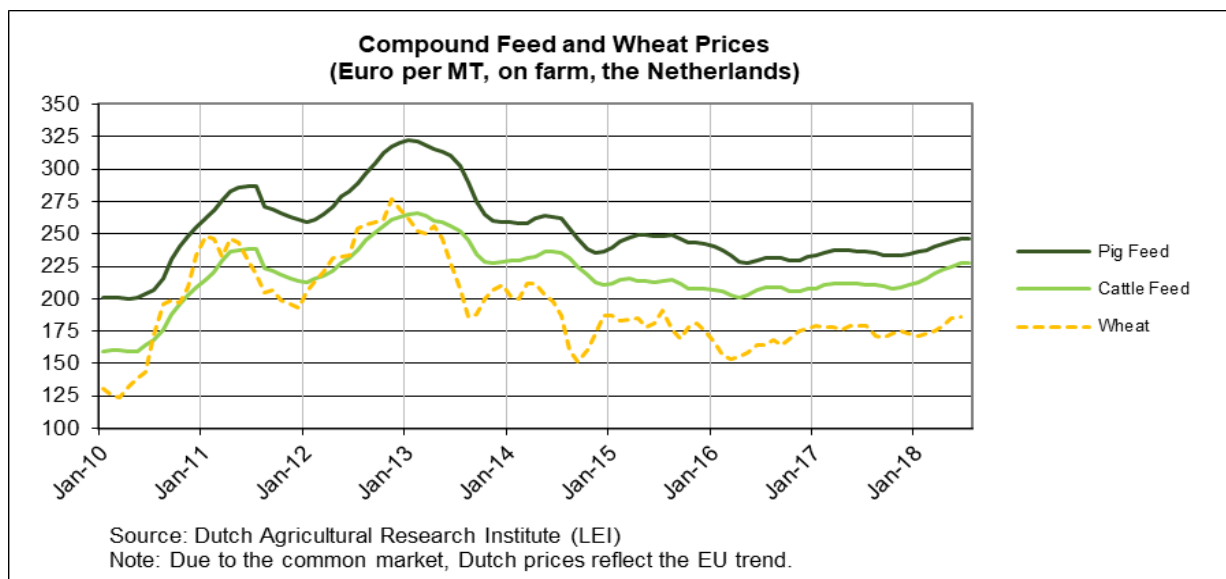
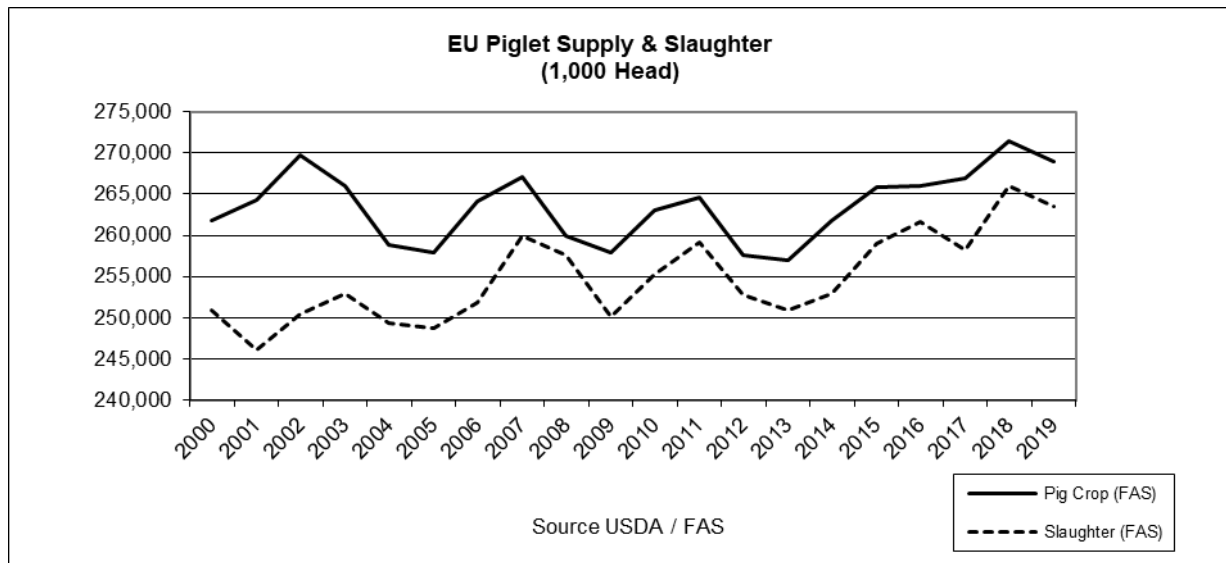
Swine

Animal Numbers, Swine	2017		2018		2019	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
European Union						
Total Beginning Stocks	147,188	147,188	150,112	150,000	0	148,900
Sow Beginning Stocks	12,022	12,022	12,189	12,153	0	12,000
Production (Pig Crop)	267,500	267,000	271,500	271,500	0	269,000
Total Imports	6	6	5	8	0	8
Total Supply	414,694	414,194	421,617	421,508	0	417,908
Total Exports	340	339	350	600	0	500
Sow Slaughter	4,020	3,686	4,150	3,850	0	3,800
Other Slaughter	254,680	254,566	259,350	262,150	0	259,700
Total Slaughter	258,700	258,252	263,500	266,000	0	263,500
Loss	5,542	5,603	5,617	6,008	0	5,708
Ending Inventories	150,112	150,000	152,150	148,900	0	148,200
Total Distribution	414,694	414,194	421,617	421,508	0	417,908
(1000 HEAD)						

Not Official USDA data. Source: Eurostat and FAS Offices in the EU.

The EU swine sector increasingly produces for the world market.

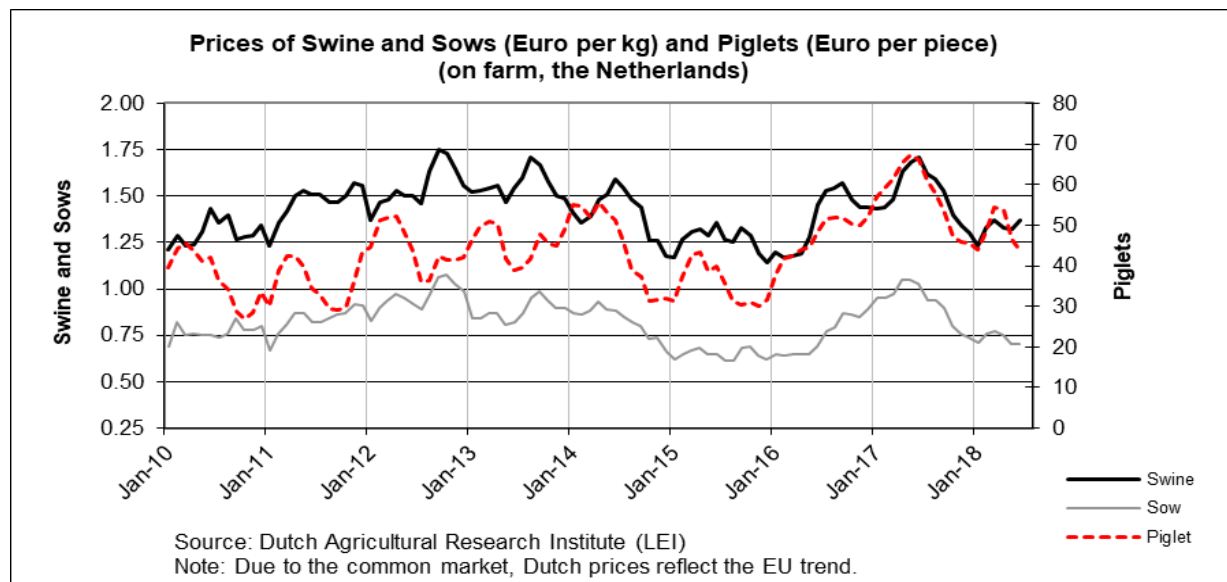
During 2000–2015, EU pig production followed a constant cycle of up and down for about four years (see graph below). Since 2016, however, export demand from China boosted EU exports from just above 2 million MT Carcass Weight (CW) to around 3 million MT CW. Chinese demand increased the importance of exports for the EU swine sector, currently about 12 percent of domestic production. The surge of sales to China had a positive effect on prices and the profitability of the sector. It also affected the swine cycle as it supported EU breeders to hold sow stocks well above 12 million animals. Combined with further improvements in fertility rate, this herd is forecast to produce a record number of piglets and a record slaughter of 266 million animals this year. Production is expected to increase throughout almost the entire EU, with the most significant increases in Spain, the Netherlands, Denmark and Poland. Romania and Hungary are among the few exceptions, due to the outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF). In the middle of 2018, the ASF virus hit Romania hard. Currently there are nearly 800 reported outbreaks in the country. In Hungary, ASF has only been reported in the wild boar population. In Poland, ASF has been contained in the Eastern and Northeastern part of the country.



A record pig crop is facing falling feed supplies.

At the same time as Northern Europe faced a dry summer with lower crop yields, an anticipated record crop of piglets entered the market for fattening. Farmers close to the world market, such as the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain, will be able to source sufficient volumes of feed, mainly soybean meal and corn, but for higher prices paid than last year. In the Netherlands, swine feed rose to the highest level reported since mid-2015 (see graph above) although historically prices are still low compared to 2011-2014 period. The current feed situation is forecast to accelerate slaughter earlier and at a lower weight. This effect is anticipated to be more pronounced in the regional areas, mainly in Northern Central Europe such as in Poland and the Czech Republic. In 2018, the Czech Ministry of Agriculture introduced a new national subsidy program for the swine sector. However, current market conditions will constrain the country's effort to improve its self-sufficiency. In the South of Europe good crop conditions are reported, which could attract piglets from Danish and Dutch breeders by fatteners in Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia,

Bulgaria and Greece. During the first half of this year, official slaughter rose by 2.8 percent. Slaughter levels are expected to peak during the second half of the summer and level off during the remainder of the year. Due to this acceleration, slaughter is higher than forecast in the Semi-Annual Report, with a resulting lower ending inventory.



Tightening margins will curtail production next year.

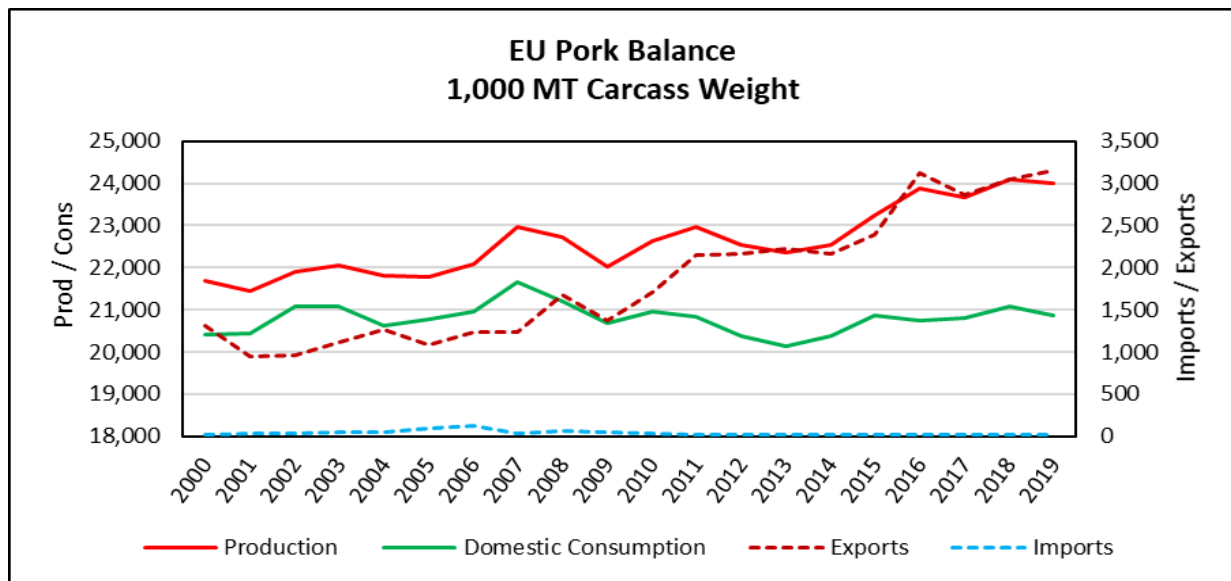
While carcass prices are currently lower than in 2016 and 2017 (see graph above), feed prices are rising. Piglet prices fell to the lowest level in two years. As a consequence of deteriorating profit margins for fatteners and breeders, the EU sow stock is estimated to be cut to 12.0 million animals at the beginning of next year. While this is the lowest herd reported, improved fertility is forecast to result in the third largest reported piglet crop and second largest slaughter level. The most significant piglet production cuts are expected in Germany, Romania, the Netherlands and Denmark. The crisis on the German pork market is expected to continue as pressuring animal welfare questions, such as sow management, castration and tail docking impact the sector. These issues are having an effect on the popularity of pork in the largest market in Europe. The Romanian sector is hit by the ASF outbreaks, but commercial farms located in the risk-free areas remain committed to their investment plans. The Danish and Dutch breeding sector are expected to scale down a bit due to lower export demand for piglets.

Pork

Meat, Swine	2017		2018		2019	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
European Union						
Slaughter (Reference)	258,700	258,252	263,500	266,000	0	263,500
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	23,675	23,663	24,050	24,100	0	24,000
Total Imports	14	14	15	15	0	15
Total Supply	23,689	23,677	24,065	24,115	0	24,015
Total Exports	2857	2,860	2,900	3,050	0	3,150
Human Consumption	20,832	20,817	21,165	21,065	0	20,865
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Consumption	20,832	20,817	21,165	21,065	0	20,865
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	23,689	23,677	24,065	24,115	0	24,015

(1000 HEAD), (1000 MT CWE)

Not Official USDA data. Source: Eurostat and FAS Offices in the EU.



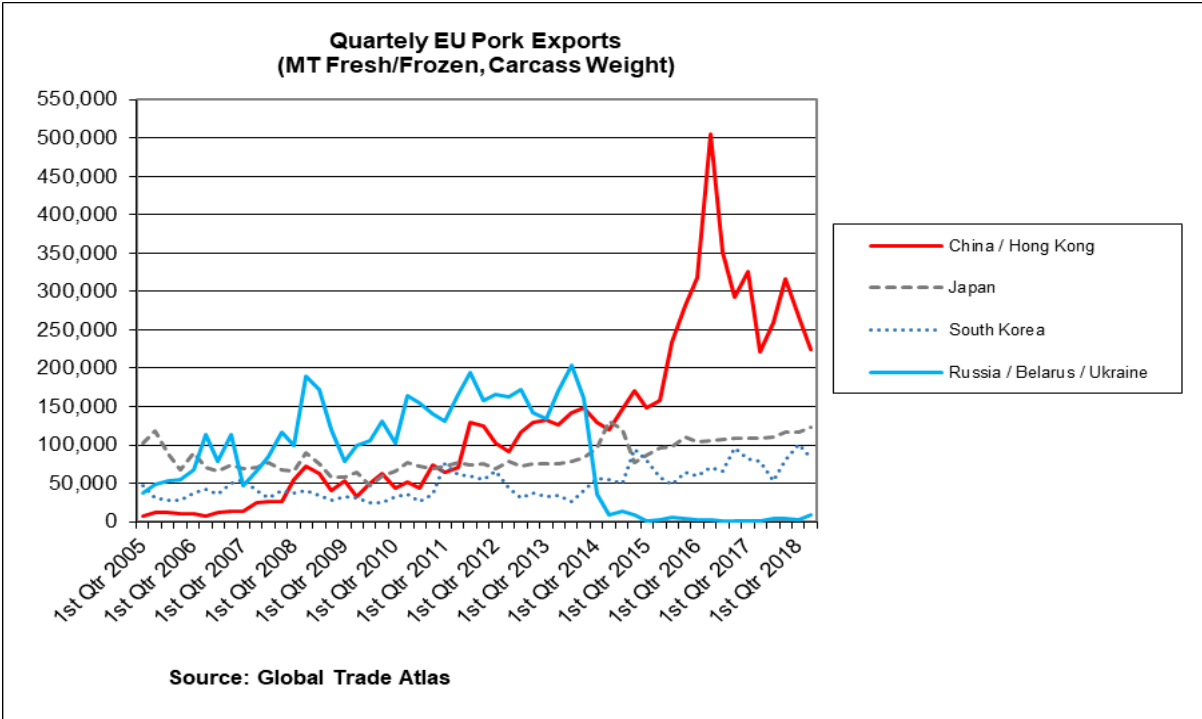
Only China is able to absorb the additional volume of pork produced.

This year the EU pig crop is forecast to reach record levels, and with sustained fattening and slaughter weights the EU would in theory produce an additional 700,000 MT CW of pork, such an increase was reported in 2015 (709,000 MT CW) and almost in 2016 (617,000 MT CW). For this to happen will depend entirely on export demand as domestic pork consumption is stagnant. During the first half of 2018, exports have not shown any significant sign of growth, trade statistics report an increase of only one percent. The only market, which could absorb an additional volume of 700,000 MT CW of pork during the remainder of the year, is China (see graph below). This hike in demand could emerge during the autumn in preparation for the Chinese New Year in February. Chinese imports tariffs on pork from the United States, could

benefit EU sales, further supported by the weakening Euro against the US\$. In 2017, Spain was the main supplier of pork to China, followed by Germany, Canada and the United States. Until recently, EU exporters did not predict a huge increase of pork exports to China, as producers in the United States were able to reduce their margins, while Brazilian pork is currently very competitive. But with ASF spreading in China, EU exporters see an advantage for shipping additional volumes of pork to the Chinese market.

EU producers are seeking to diversify exports.

Other markets, which could source additional volumes of EU pork, are Mexico and Japan. Mexico opened a zero duty tariff quota for pork of 350,000 MT. In 2017, the EU exported 3,120 MT CW to Mexico, mainly high value processed pork, such as salted, dried and smoked hams. For the lower priced cuts, Canadian and Chilean suppliers are expected to be more competitive due to lower transport costs. In addition, EU pork exports will presumably only originate from Spain, Denmark and Germany, as pork plants from other EU Member States are only in the process of being accepted by Mexican authorities for export. The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Japan could open the market for more pork from the EU. But the FTA is not implemented yet and import tariffs will only be lowered gradually.



EU exports will increase to a record level next year.

For this year, a conservative forecast is made of additional export demand of about 200,000 MT CW, shipped during the second half this year. This will push EU exports up to 3.05 million MT CW, 75,000 MT CW below the record level reported in 2016. Another 250,000 MT CW is anticipated to be stored for domestic consumption. Push back from the domestic and export markets is foreseen to press carcass prices further down. With rising feed prices and support for farmers to further accelerate slaughter, albeit at lower weights, margins will deteriorate. As feed prices are projected to remain on a high level until the next harvest, carcass weights are expected

to only partially increase to the level reported in 2017. This recovery is sufficient to support pork production close to the record level reached this year. The competitive pork supply with a larger number of plants eligible for export combined with the FTAs are expected to further boost exports to a new record level of 3.15 million MT CW.

Policy

New CAP Post 2020 Likely to Continue Coupled Direct Payments for Beef

On June 1, 2018, the European Commission (EC) published its legislative proposals for the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) beyond 2020. The scope of the new proposals remains in line with the current CAP. The EU beef sector and cattle farmer groups in several EU Member States made statements about the importance of the EU coupled supports for their sector. Farmers are particularly anxious to highlight the increased pressure on their sector from new beef import quotas that the EU intends to grant in free trade negotiations with countries in South America (Mercosur), Australia and New Zealand. The greening measures would be replaced by measures that Member States (MS) are decided and imposed at MS level, with the EU controlling the outcome. The level of direct payments will depend on the budget available, but existing market management tools like intervention buying and private storage aid (PSA) are expected to continue. It is expected that the EU Council and European Parliament will agree on the new CAP before the May 2019 EU elections. The new CAP is to become effective at the beginning of 2021.

EC Negotiations with Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay)

The EU and Mercosur have planned a new round of negotiations in Montevideo (Uruguay) in an attempt to finalize the 20-year old negotiations. However, agriculture on the EU side and cars on the Mercosur side remain politically sensitive obstacles. The EU's latest offer for a 99,000 MT beef quota and a 150,000 MT sugar quota were deemed insufficient by the Mercosur side. European farm lobbies continue arguing that these offered volumes are already unacceptable as they will further hurt EU beef and sugar farmers that are already producing at a loss under current depressed beef and sugar prices.

Implementation of the EU-Canada Trade Agreement (CETA)

The CETA, enforced on September 21, 2017, incrementally allows EU duty-free access for fresh and chilled Canadian beef starting with 5,140 MT in year one increasing to 30,840 MT CW from year six onwards. An additional 4,160 MT CW from the EU-Canada MOU on hormone beef will be added from the start. A second quota for frozen beef will open incrementally starting at 2,500 MT CW and reaching 15,000 MT CW from year six onwards. Furthermore, Canada will receive a waiver for the 20 percent duty for the 11,500 MT Hilton beef quota that it shares with the United States. For bison, Canada receives a new 3,000 MT quota, while it will also be able to ship bison duty-free under the Hilton quota. For pork, Canada gained a duty-free quota with 12,500 MT CW annual increments totaling 75,000 MT CW from year six. This comes on top of

Canada's existing country-specific quota of 5,549 MT CW. Negotiations between the EC and Canada on the veterinary details of the FTA are ongoing.

Implementation of the EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

On December 8, 2017, the EU and Japan announced that they had come to a political agreement on an FTA. Tariffs for beef will be reduced from 38.5 percent to 9 percent, and for fresh pork almost abolished over a 15-year period. The formal U.S. withdrawal from the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) in January 2017 seems to have allowed the EU to reverse its backlog on trade with Japan. European farm industry leaders cheer this agreement with this second largest and most affluent export destination in the growing Asian market. However, a range of practical details are still under negotiation between both parties before a final agreement can be sealed. As these negotiations must be finalized before the official EU approval and ratification process can start, experts believe that the provisional implementation of this EU-Japan FTA is unlikely before 2020.

Presence and Impact of African Swine Fever (ASF)

Since the first ASF outbreaks occurred in Lithuania and Poland in early 2014, the EU has been rather successful in containing the highly infectious disease to its Northeastern part. An occasional outbreak detected in wild boar in Hungary and the center of the Czech Republic was also kept under control. However, in the recent months, numerous new outbreaks were found in Romania, mostly in backyard swine and wild boars, but also affecting large commercial farms. The latest incident was found at a backyard farm in Bulgaria on August 31. This situation is putting the European Commission (EC) and MS veterinary services on high alert and the EC is considering upgrading its mitigation measures based on new reports from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Several MSs are already preparing prevention measures. Denmark and Bulgaria are talking about building border fences to stop wild boar from crossing the borders, while Germany is considering lowering the risk by decimating its wild boar population through a massive hunting campaign. In the meantime, EC services are trying to preserve future pork trade in case of further outbreaks by seeking acceptance of regionalization with its Asian trade partners, particularly China and Japan, which, unlike the United States and Canada, do not recognize EU regionalization.

DISCLAIMER

The numbers in the PSDs in this report are not official USDA numbers, but they result from a collaborative effort by FAS EU offices to consolidate PSDs from all 28 EU member states.

This report is the result of active collaboration with the following EU FAS colleagues in the following member states:

Xavier Audran from FAS Paris covering France
 Ornella Bettini from FAS Rome covering Italy
 Mila Boshnakova from FAS Sofia covering Bulgaria
 Monica Dobrescu from FAS Bucharest covering Romania
 Dimosthenis Faniadis from FAS Rome covering Greece
 Bob Flach from FAS The Hague covering the Netherlands and Nordic countries
 Gellert Golya from FAS Budapest covering Hungary and Slovenia
 Steve Knight from FAS London covering the United Kingdom and Ireland
 Roswitha Krautgartner from FAS Vienna covering Austria
 Jana Mikulasova from FAS Prague covering the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic
 Andreja Misir from FAS Zagreb covering Croatia
 Yvan Polet from FAS Brussels covering EU Policies, Belgium and Luxembourg
 Leif Rehder from FAS Berlin covering Germany
 Piotr Rucinski from FAS Warsaw covering Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
 Carmen Valverde from FAS Madrid covering Portugal and Spain

NOTE

In this report the following HS codes and conversion factors are used:

	HS codes	Conversion factors
Beef	0201, 0202	PW X 1.40 = CW
	021020, 160250	PW X 1.79 = CW
Pork	0203, 021011, 021012, 021019, 160241, 160242, 160249	PW X 1.30 = CW

PW = Product Weight CW = Carcass Weight

ABBREVIATIONS

EC: European Commission

EU: All twenty-eight Member States of the European Union.

MS: An EU Member State

NMS: The thirteen new MSs which joined the EU in May 2004, January 2007 and July 2012

Livestock Related reports from FAS Posts in Europe:

Country	Title	Date
Romania	Rising Toll of the African Swine Fever Virus in Romania	08/06/18
Bulgaria	EU first cases peste des petits ruminants (PPR) reported in Bulgaria	07/30/18
Germany	China and Germany Discuss Animal Health Sanitary Issues	07/26/18
EU	New 2018-19 HQB Quota Fill Hits New Record	07/26/18
Romania	Romania Confirms ASF on a Commercial Hog Farm	07/06/18
Romania	ASF Hits a New Romanian County	06/26/18
EU	Comparison of EU Tariff Rate Quotas for High Quality Bovine Meat	06/05/18
Germany	Avian Influenza Outbreak in Northern Germany	03/30/18
EU	EU Livestock Semi-Annual	02/22/18
EU	EC Boasts EU International Animal Welfare Policy Successes	02/09/18
Spain	Exports are the driving forces of the Spanish Animal Production	02/01/18
Romania	New Romanian African Swine Fever Detection	01/30/18
EU	High Quality Beef Quota Fill Under Fierce Import Competition	01/24/18
EU	European Meat Trade Association Publishes Brexit Impact Study	12/26/17
Poland	Annual Livestock Report	11/27/17
EU	High Quality Beef 2017-18 Quota Second Quarter Fills in One Month	11/13/17
Spain	Spanish pork captures Asian market share	11/09/17
Bulgaria	Livestock and Products Annual	10/26/17
Slovakia	American Foods Promotion in Slovakia Levies Economic Boom	10/04/17
EU	EU Livestock Annual	09/12/17

The GAIN Reports can be downloaded from the following FAS website:

<http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

-For additional livestock market related information, please contact:

Bob Flach (FAS The Hague)

Phone: ++31 70 310 2303

E-mail: bob.flach@fas.usda.gov

-For additional livestock policy related information, please contact:

Yvan Polet (FAS Brussels U.S. Mission to the EU)

Phone: ++32 2 811 4095

E-mail: yvan.polet@fas.usda.gov