

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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

Voluntary  Public

**Date:** 7/10/2015

**GAIN Report Number:**

## **South Africa - Republic of**

**Post:** Pretoria

### **South Africa market for U.S. poultry pork and beef remains closed**

**Report Categories:**

Poultry and Products

Livestock and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

**Approved By:**

Eric Wenberg

**Prepared By:**

FAS Staff

**Report Highlights:**

June 4 and 5, 2015, in Paris, the South Africa and U.S. poultry industries came to an agreement that would permit the return of U.S. bone in chicken to South Africa. That agreement is not yet finalized. SA should keep that commitment by providing a draft agreement to the U.S. industry. Sanitary measures against the United States remain that will continue to prevent exports not only of chicken and other poultry, but also beef and pork. FAS Pretoria cannot report a defined timeline to expect the return of U.S. meat to the market.

## **South Africa market for U.S. poultry, pork and beef remains closed**

There remains substantial testimony of good will from South Africa's government and industry officials. No concrete progress has been made yet to return U.S. chicken to the South African marketplace over the question of the anti-dumping duty against the United States since 2000. USDA and DAFF are negotiating sanitary and food safety issues related to avian influenza and U.S. poultry. South Africa has not regionalized the United States as requested. The country's approach is to maintain its ban on the full United States, allowing poultry exports to resume once the AI outbreak fades. SA should regionalize and continue to regionalize during future outbreaks, consistent with international standard practice. Global trends on HPAI indicate 138 markets open for U.S. poultry, some regionalized, with 18 nations including South Africa maintaining a ban. A draft poultry health certificate must be concluded, has been exchanged between DAFF and USDA several times over recent years, but has not resulted in a finalized, agreeable conclusion. The United States has been out of the bone in chicken market for fifteen years, since 2000.

South Africa had committed in Paris to accommodate USDA's request for recognition of its current negligible risk status under BSE and resume its imports of U.S. beef. This issue also has not been concluded. The United States has been unable to export U.S. beef to South Africa under terms consistent with our nation's OIE risk status since 2005, when the United States resumed exports of beef to many nations. The U.S. began exporting a limited scope of products to many nations in 2005 following the implementation of the ruminant feed ban. As the OIE's determination of the U.S. BSE status changed to controlled risk in 2008 and then to negligible risk in 2013, the scope of the United States' exports to most countries expanded to reflect our BSE status.

On U.S. pork, the gap has narrowed, with the potential for some market access, with limited conditions on what types of pork may be exported. To date, there is no agreed pork certificate. The United States has been out of the market for pork since 2013.

Technical officials have met and conferenced many times without finalizing their negotiations regarding the sanitary and food safety issues. The arrangements and agreements related to a settlement between the South Africa and U.S. poultry industry regarding a quantitative restriction are not finished. Trade reports indicate that the South African government has not yet approved the terms of a draft deal. FAS Pretoria cannot report a defined timeline to expect the return of U.S. meat to the market.

The United States and South Africa have much to gain by aligning their SPS approach to agricultural trade. South Africa has the opportunity to increase its exports to the United States up to \$175 million worth of citrus, avocados, other horticultural crops, and high quality meats, over time (also refer to GAIN report [Notional trade gains for South Africa and the United States](#))