Halstrom-May-Export-Stats-V3

SPEAKERS
John Herath, Dan Halstrom

John Herath 00:00
Exports of U.S. beef and pork were held back in May by key access issues, according to U.S. Meat Export Federation President and CEO Dan Halstrom, starting with beef plant suspensions in China.

Dan Halstrom 00:10
While we have a lot of the beef plants relisted in the China CIFER system, we still do not have total access, because a lot of plants have been suspended. So this represents about $2 billion in sales, potentially. That was our peak in 2022. Until we can get some of these issues resolved on the beef side, we will continue to lack that demand. On the pork side, we have the pseudorabies virus issue with Mexico. The access that we're lacking is actually pork skins and variety meats, to the tune of $7 million a week opportunity that's being lost. The issue is resolved as far as USDA is concerned from an animal health standpoint. So it's urgent that we get Mexico relisted with full access for U.S. pork. A very good example in the month of May where the results could have been better had we had these issues resolved.

John Herath 00:56
Despite those challenges, overall exports remain strong, starting with pork.

Dan Halstrom 01:01
A very, very good month, 10% growth year-on-year on volume, 8% growth on value. You know, there were quite a few bright spots outside of Mexico, Japan up 26% - one of the largest months in years, 38,000 metric tons. Central America up big, Colombia up big, and the Dominican Republic. Total export value per head exceeded $71 per head, which is one of the largest months in quite a while. And looking at the beef side, volumes were pretty good, considering our supply situation, down 5% on volume and up 2% on value at over $818 million in the month of May. I think this is a testament to the fact that our global customers, despite higher prices, continue to pay for our quality. The value per head of exports: $468 a head. This is the largest value return in four years, since 2022.

John Herath 01:58
For more, please visit USMEF.org. For the U.S. Meat Export Federation, I'm John Herath.

Transcribed by https://otter.ai