Borror-WPX-V2

SPEAKERS
Erin Borror, John Herath

John Herath 00:00
U.S. Meat Export Federation Vice President of Economic Analysis Erin Borror reports an upbeat tone among pork producers at last week's World Pork Expo in Des Moines.

Erin Borror 00:08
We did talk a fair bit about the strength in exports, especially the strong first quarter on a record pace, talked about that $67 per head and 30.7% of production being exported, and discussed Latin America's importance in that, and then, of course, the rebound into Japan as well, and actually pretty broad-based growth. So talked some about U.S. programs and kind of emphasizing how pork is consumed and merchandised differently in the international markets compared to the U.S. and some of the really innovative things that our staff is doing, and talking about products like the Boston Butt Burger.

John Herath 00:46
She talked with industry leaders about the export impact of finding pseudorabies in pigs in Texas and Iowa.

Erin Borror 00:52
It was an opportunity to highlight again the need for the U.S. to do even more to be prepared, obviously prevention of any disease, and certainly for an animal disease, is critical. But what lessons can we learn to be better prepared, heaven forbid something happens in the future? And then we also just explained that for Mexico, that's our biggest restriction currently for pseudorabies, and it's pretty darn significant. And I think there was some lack of awareness of that. What has happened is thankfully no impact for the muscle cut trade, but we have not been able to ship a long list of products to Mexico since the beginning of May, so over a month now. This is products like skins, fat, feet. That's impacting about $6 million to $7 million a week in U.S. offal and other variety meat exports. And importantly, Mexican customers are getting desperate. So we are the dominant supplier of these products into Mexico, and establishments down there really rely on them.

John Herath 01:58
USMEF is working with USDA as it urges the Mexican government to narrow these restrictions to just the impacted states and to normalize trade as soon as possible. For the U.S. Meat Export Federation, I'm John Herath.

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