Heller-Mexico-Scrapie-V2

SPEAKERS
Courtney Heller, John Herath

John Herath 00:00
Mexico is banning imports of U.S. lamb and sheep offal after the finding of a single case of scrapie. U.S. Meat Export Federation Director of Technical and Export Services Courtney Heller has the details.

Courtney Heller 00:10
Scrapie is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy. We refer to those as TSEs. It's similar to mad cow disease or BSE, as we call it. Scrapie affects sheep and goats. It's not shown to pose any risk to human health. The most recent case we've had here in the U.S. is this case in Oregon. It was identified through the USDA's ongoing surveillance program. Both APHIS and FSIS indicated, along with America's Sheep Industry Association, that we expect little trade impact, but we've since then found that Mexico has suspended imports of U.S. lamb and sheep offal and viscera. We're still waiting for Mexico to provide public justification for this particular step in trade impacts.

John Herath 01:00
The move has a significant impact on U.S. sheep producers.

Courtney Heller 01:03
Mexico is a really important market for lamb and sheep products in general. Most of our export market for any sheep offal or viscera would be specific to Mexico. Most of the other markets tend to be muscle and meat product focused, and so we'll feel an impact if this market remains closed because we don't have an alternative market for these variety meats,

John Herath 01:25
While Mexico's restrictions are new, scrapie affects access for U.S. lamb in a number of key markets.

Courtney Heller 01:31
We really need some help and focus in resolving some of these broader trade barriers we're experiencing for U.S. lamb related to scrapie. South Korea, Saudi Arabia, the EU, and the UK, as well as China, all of these markets would be very good markets for lamb products, including offal and variety meats like that Mexico market.

John Herath 01:53
For more, please visit USMEF.org. For the U.S. Meat Export Federation, I'm John Herath.

Transcribed by https://otter.ai