Halstrom-LA-Ports-Update-V1

SPEAKERS
Dan Halstrom, John Herath

John Herath 00:00
Security workers at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach had threatened to strike if a labor agreement was not reached by this weekend. As U.S. Meat Export Federation President and CEO Dan Halstrom reports, a work stoppage has been avoided at ports key to U.S. beef and pork exports.

Dan Halstrom 00:15
Red meat exporters received some really good news this Saturday morning when we learned that the labor impasse with the Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach has been resolved. So the good news is we do not anticipate any sort of work stoppage at these two major ports. So the importance of the West Coast is monumental for U.S. beef and pork exports. About two thirds of our waterborne beef exports go off the West Coast, and about 50% of our pork exports are off the West Coast, so especially this time of year, there's no way we could afford any kind of work stoppage with that activity. So USMEF's very thankful that the parties stayed at the negotiating table and got something worked out, and we can look forward to business as usual as far as our exports are concerned.

John Herath 01:00
U.S. reliability in delivering quality beef and pork around the globe has been a competitive advantage.

Dan Halstrom 01:06
We have a reputation globally of being a reliable 52-week year supplier. And even more important that this was worked out - we don't have any sort of disruption off of one of our key shipping points on the West Coast, so maintaining our credibility as a reliable supplier is paramount, and it looks like in this case we'll continue to be one of the most reliable suppliers in the world. One other important point to note here is that the actual longshoreman contract on the West Coast does not expire until mid 2028. So I think we can look forward to the next year and a half or so, of having a really stable shipping arrangement off the West Coast, whether it be longshoremen or with the security union contract.

John Herath 01:50
For more, please visit USMEF.org. For the U.S. Meat Export Federation, I'm John Herath.

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