

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: South Africa Lifts Restrictions on Poultry Imports from South Carolina

Country: South Africa - Republic of

Post: Pretoria

Report Category: Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

On September 4, 2020, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development (DALRRD) informed Post that imports of all poultry products from South Carolina are reauthorized, ending the 5-month ban stemming from an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The decision to lift the restrictions was made after a review of the outbreak, control, surveillance and eradication information, and in accordance with the agreed-upon protocol. DALRRD will commence issuing of veterinary import permits with immediate effect. The South Carolina poultry industry represents 40% of all agriculture in the state and accounts for 80% of animal agriculture.

Background

On April 9, 2020, the United States reported an outbreak of a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in the state of South Carolina. The South Carolina poultry industry represents 40% of all agriculture in the state and accounts for 80% of animal agriculture. Subsequent to the U.S. notification to the OIE, on April 14, 2020, the South African Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) notified the U.S. Department of Agriculture that trade restrictions on chicken products from South Carolina would be instituted.

Restrictions on Poultry Imports has been lifted

On September 4, 2020, DALRRD notified the Post that the imports of all of poultry products from South Carolina will resume. Products packed in their final packaging on or after August 5, 2020 will be accepted by South Africa's import authorities at the ports of entry. The poultry products include frozen poultry meat, hatching eggs, table eggs, and day-old chicks. The decision to lift restrictions comes after numerous engagements between the DALRRD's Directorate Animal Health and USDA's Animal and Plant Inspection Service. DALRRD's decision came after a review of the information shared between the two countries, and in accordance with the agreed upon protocol. DALRRD will commence issuing of veterinary import permits with immediate effect.

U.S. Poultry Exports to South Africa

The United States exports bone-in chicken to South Africa under an annual tariff rate quota (TRQ) system that is subject to conditional increases every year. The TRQ is exempt from an antidumping duty that applies to bone-in chicken imports once the quota has been filled. For the year 2020/2021 the quota was increased to 69,972 tons from 68,590 tons in 2019/2020. Over the past three years, U.S. bone-in chicken imports have filled the quota, signaling the considerable and consistent demand for the product in South Africa. Nonetheless, the recent increase of South Africa's applied duties on bone-in chicken imports from 37 percent to 62 percent could impact the future utilization of the TRQ. In addition to the increased duties, the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding countrywide lockdown measures, delays at ports of entry and the weakened South African currency have contributed to a decrease in U.S. poultry exports to South Africa since April 2020. (See [Poultry and Poultry Products Report](#) for more information)

Attachments:

No Attachments.