

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: New Market Access for US Live Cattle Day Old Chicks and Hatching Eggs

Country: Ethiopia

Post: Addis Ababa

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products, Dairy and Products, Export Accomplishments - Market Access

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Report Highlights:

The United States in coordination with Ethiopia's regulatory authorities, have finalized new veterinary health certificates authorizing the export of U.S. live cattle, day-old chicks, and hatching eggs to Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Agricultural Authority confirmed the approval of these market access requests on December 16, 2025.

Ethiopia Grants Market Access for U.S. Live Cattle, Day-Old Chicks, and Hatching Eggs

Over the past several years, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) worked closely with the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and most recently with the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority (EAA) to finalize model veterinary health certificates for the export of U.S.-origin live cattle, day-old chicks, and hatching eggs to Ethiopia. FAS coordinated with the MOA to facilitate the authorization process, and since the request aligns with Ethiopia's livestock development priorities, the EAA approved the export certificates and granted the new market access. U.S. bovine semen and bovine embryos already have market access in Ethiopia.

Overview of Ethiopia's Livestock Sector

Ethiopia's livestock sector remains one of the most important pillars of its agricultural economy, underpinned by Africa's largest livestock population. According to official [data](#), Ethiopia is home to approximately 70 million cattle, 43 million sheep, 53 million goats, eight million camels, and around 57 million poultry. The sector contributes roughly 45 percent of agricultural GDP. Yet persistent structural constraints including low-yield indigenous genetics, inadequate feed, limited veterinary services, and weak processing infrastructure continue to affect productivity and prevent the sector from reaching its full potential. Despite having the largest livestock population in Africa, Ethiopia aims to develop an optimal herd composed of improved, high-productivity breeds. Current policy priorities focus on shifting from extensive to more intensive production systems to build a high-input, high-output livestock sector. This transition creates a strong market opportunity for U.S. exporters to supply superior livestock genetics and advanced reproductive technologies that can enhance yields, quality, and overall production efficiency.

Ethiopia's dairy, beef, and poultry subsectors hold significant growth potential driven by rising domestic demand, supportive government strategies, and opportunities to modernize production systems. The dairy sector is guided by the [National Dairy Development Strategy](#) (2022–2031), which aims to quadruple milk production by improving genetics, feed systems, and farm management through initiatives such as the “Bounty of the Basket” program. The [beef sector](#) likewise shows strong prospects, supported by domestic demand and expanding export markets and national priorities to upgrade genetics, strengthen feed supply, and promote specialized beef production and fattening systems. Guided by the [National Poultry Development Strategy](#) (2022–2031), poultry is also among the growing subsectors fueled by increasing demand for affordable protein amid rapid population growth and urbanization. Overall, the Ethiopian Government efforts focus on expanding livestock production through improved breeds and more commercialized production models.

The Ethiopian livestock sector faces persistent constraints that limit productivity and competitiveness. Key challenges include low genetic potential of local breeds, insufficient access to quality feed and veterinary services, and weak value-chain integration across production, processing, and marketing. Additional constraints such as limited availability of high-quality day-old chicks and hatching eggs in poultry, underdeveloped dairy and meat processing capacity, inadequate biosecurity, and shortages of commercial inputs continue to hinder sector transformation. Industry experts emphasize that addressing these constraints particularly through expanded access to improved genetics, strengthened services, and upgraded market infrastructure is vital to unlock Ethiopia's full livestock sector potential.

Links to the APHIS health certificates and additional information can be found [here](#):

- Live Animal Export: [Export Live Animals to Ethiopia | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)
- Animal Product Export: [International Regulations \(IRegs\) for Animal Product Exports | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)

For further information about the Ethiopian market, please contact agaddisababa@usda.gov.

Attachments:

No Attachments.