

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Saudi Arabia

Post: Riyadh

Modified Effective Date of Ban on U.S. Beef Imports

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

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Saudi Arabia Modifies Effective Date of Ban on U.S. Beef Imports

On May 27, 2012 the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) confirmed to ATO Riyadh that it has modified the effective shipping date of the ban on U.S. beef export to Saudi Arabia from April 19 to May 10 which means U.S. beef and beef products which have been shipped to Saudi Arabia on/before May 9, 2012 will be released, given that they fulfill all SFDA required certification.

SFDA has indicated its willingness to lift the temporary ban on U.S. beef and beef products in accordance with its standard procedure for lifting ban imposed on imports of meat and meat products. The standard procedure includes sending SFDA food safety experts to U.S. to inspect and approve U.S. beef producing facilities that will be allowed to export beef to Saudi Arabia.

SFDA has expressed its interest to receive the results of the comprehensive epidemiological investigation that APHIS is conducting in conjunction with California Department of food and Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). According to SFDA, the results of the comprehensive epidemiological investigation would provide them with important information in considering the lifting of the ban on imports of U.S. beef and beef products to Saudi Arabia.