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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Turkey

Post: Ankara

Turkey Opens Up Breeding and Feeder Cattle Imports

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

Turkey has just started to implement the new subsidy program for young farmers in Turkey. Within this scope, General Directorate of Agricultural Establishments (TIGEM) affiliated to Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL) will buy 50,000 head of cattle (feeder/breeding, bulls) from authorized countries eligible to import Turkey, and will grant these cattle to young farmers. The Turkish government will work directly with the exporting country organization. U.S. organizations/entities interested in exporting cattle to Turkey should contact FAS Ankara.

General Information

Turkey has just started to implement the new subsidy program for young farmers in Turkey. Within this scope, General Directorate of Agricultural Establishments (TIGEM) affiliated to Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL) will buy 50,000 head of cattle (feeder/breeding, bulls) from authorized countries eligible to import Turkey. The countries authorized to export live breeding and feeder cattle to Turkey are below.

Table I. Authorized countries eligible for cattle export to Turkey

Breeding	Feeder	Slaughtering
United States	United States	-
Australia	Australia	Australia
-	Brazil	Brazil
Hungary	Hungary	Hungary
Estonia	Estonia	Estonia
Lithuania	Lithuania	Lithuania
Latvia	Latvia	Latvia
France	France	France
Austria	Austria	-
Slovakia	Slovakia	Slovakia
Sweden	Sweden	Sweden
Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic
Greece	Greece	Greece
Germany	-	-
Netherlands	-	-
Italy	Italy	Italy
Uruguay	Uruguay	-
Belgium	Belgium	Belgium
- Denmark	Chile	-

Source: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL) website:

<http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Konular/Veteriner-Hizmetleri/Ihracat-Ithalat/Ithalat> , April 2016.

New subsidy program for young farmers

Up to 30,000 TL (\$10,620) value will be granted to young farmers within scope of rural development subsidies in 2016. Livestock projects to be subsidized are below:

- Feeder cattle project should be at least seven head of feeder male animals (beef/combined breeds) at least eight months old and at least 220 kg.
- Breeding heifer project should be at least four head of female animals at least nine months old.
- Small ruminant project should be at least 40 head of animals including 38 head of females, 2 head of male animals.

The grant will not be directly given to farmers. Young farmers will be given cattle and small ruminants from TIGEM within scope of livestock production projects. MinFAL will reimburse TIGEM through Turkish Agricultural Bank for their implementation of this subsidy program. For projects deemed

appropriate by MinFAL, a contract to purchase animals will be signed between farmer and TIGEM. As background, the main mission of TIGEM is to protect agricultural genetic resources and produce breeding animals for the agricultural industry.

TIGEM will start this project with 50,000 head of cattle to be granted to farmers. Animals will be brought from authorized foreign countries determined by MinFAL (list above). TIGEM will directly make a contract with livestock organizations/associations in exporting countries without any intermediate contractor.

Procedures on supplying animals to TIGEM from foreign organizations/associations will be carried out according to the technical specifications defined by MinFAL. For technical specifications please see GAIN report on Live Animals and Animal Products Trade, number: TR5040 date 8/5/2015 [here](#).

FAS-Ankara received an official letter from General Directorate of Agricultural Establishments (TIGEM) requesting the name/address/contact information of the cooperatives, organizations, or associations in the United States that could supply enough quantity of cattle to Turkey. The preferred breeds are Simmental, Brown Swiss, Charolais and Hereford. Other breeds may be acceptable, but would need to be suggested and discussed with the Turkish Government with the assistance of FAS Ankara. TIGEM doesn't prefer to import Holstein cattle at this time because Holsteins already make up almost all of Turkey's dairy herd and there is interest in Turkey in dual purpose breeds.

MinFAL is not sure if they will be able to supply enough animals from European Countries for this tender and for the future. They are also limited to supply cattle from EU countries because of the animal diseases like Bluetongue and Schmallenberg virus. Although MinFAL is encouraging TIGEM to import cattle from the United States because of the quality reputation of U.S. cattle and ease of importing large quantities from one source, TIGEM is unsure if prices of cattle in the United States will be competitive. After TIGEM receives the contact info of livestock associations/organizations in exporting countries, they will start to negotiate on prices. **U.S. associations or entities interested in exporting cattle to Turkey should contact the USDA FAS Office in Ankara at** Email: AgAnkara@fas.usda.gov or Phone: +90 312 457 7393.

In addition, TIGEM may also import breeding bulls according to the technical specification and veterinary health certificate determined by MinFAL. The veterinary health certificate can be accessible with the link;
http://www.tarim.gov.tr/GKGM/Belgeler/Veteriner%20Hizmetleri/SaglikSertifikasi/ithalat/06_abd_dam_izlik_boga_sertifikasi.pdf

In the future, TIGEM will carry out a project to increase and improve Turkish livestock herd and the project will include the technical assistance component to be taken from foreign countries. Also the project will include feed plants component especially improving meadow land. Haploid plant techniques will be considered.