

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: January 30, 2024

Report Number: TU2024-0004

Report Name: Turkish Government Establishes Feeder Cattle Quota for 2024

Country: Turkiye

Post: Ankara

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Livestock and Products, Trade Policy Monitoring

Prepared By: Rishan Chaudhry

Approved By: Rishan Chaudhry

Report Highlights:

In January 2024 the Turkish government established an import quota for feeder cattle at 600,000 head. This number may be increased during the year as determined by the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry and the Turkish Milk and Meat Board (ESK) depending on market conditions. While this change in the Turkish government's involvement is sudden, it appears to reflect a desire within the Turkish government to shift imports to lower cost sources. As a result of this change, Turkish livestock producers will not be able to choose their own animals, as ESK will choose and distribute animals to farms following quarantine testing.

Türkiye has been importing cattle (breeding, feeder, and for slaughter) and red meat continuously since 2010. Additionally, carcasses and boneless meat imports have continued, in order to regulate rising domestic meat prices. Sixty percent of the animal feed consumed in the country is imported, and forage feed and hay are also imported time-to-time. Türkiye also imports bovine semen to improve and maintain domestic animal productivity. Türkiye has paid \$7 billion for cattle imports since 2010, and a total of \$11 billion when including meat, genetics, etc.

From January-November 2023, Türkiye imported 715,403 head of cattle (including feeder and breeding with a value of approximately \$1 billion in total), a 913 percent increase over the same period last year. Imports were mostly feeder cattle (629,790 head) from Brazil, Uruguay, and the Czech Republic, with a smaller amount of dairy breeding cattle from Germany, Denmark, and the United States. Breeding cattle imports from the United States increased 410 percent over 2022 figures.

Many Turkish livestock producers are selling off their animals, most of which are dairy cows, to minimize financial losses resulting from higher on-farm input costs that exceed the farmgate price for milk. According to producers, the production cost of raw milk per liter is 25 percent higher than the referenced farm-gate selling price determined by the National Milk Council. For more information, please see the latest GAIN report. Thus, dairy cows continue to be slaughtered, and animal production is on a downward trend.

As a result of high inflation and consequently high meat prices in domestic markets, the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF) is seeking to assert control of imports of feeder cattle by creating an initial import quota which will be managed by the Meat and Milk Board (ESK). The Meat and Milk Board (affiliated with MinAF to regulate meat and milk prices in the domestic market) and the Central Union of Turkish Red Meat Producers have been authorized to import 600,000 head of cattle in 2024, according to MinAF's recently released import instruction. In January 2024, MinAF lifted the quarantine measures for EU exporting countries, while at the same time increasing the incidence and quantity of blood tests of imported animals. It is possible that similar blood test requirements will be established in the future for U.S. cattle shipments by sea, to include any diseases listed on the attached Veterinary Health Certificate.

Following this, ESK began seeking tenders from South American countries. According to industry sources, these decisions were made internally, without notification to the WTO. While private companies have always been authorized to import feeder cattle, the new decision shows cracks within the livestock sector, highlighting the GoT monopoly. Selling prices of imported cattle will be determined by the Meat and Milk Board, and MinAF has

already determined a quota for domestic producers related to the number of cattle to be distributed.

Turkish importers purchase the cheapest feeder cattle regardless of the meat quality, sourcing mostly from South American countries, especially Brazil and Uruguay. Given Turkiye's animal health import requirements, which are harmonized with European Union standards, the United States is only eligible to supply animals for breeding purposes. Imports will depend on U.S. cattle prices vis-a-vis competitors, like Europe, as well as transport costs. Additionally, since Turkiye demands feeder cattle which are not castrated, a U.S. beef cattle supplier needs to contract with Turkish importers at least six months before the shipment to keep bulls uncastrated, which increases costs.

Imported feeder cattle must comply with the health and technical criteria determined by MinAF. The health criteria is attached to this report, and technical criteria are listed below.

- Cattle must be identified by individual identification means (earrings or electronic ear tags/microchips, etc.)
- At the time of arrival, the age of cattle must not exceed 15 months (450 days), and their weight must not exceed 399 kg.
- Their live weights should be:
 - HS Code 01.02.29.49.00.00 : 161-300 kg (Male)
 - HS Code 01.02.29.99.00.00: 301-399 kg (Male)
- Cattle must have been born and raised in the territory of the exporting country.
- Cattle must have their own racial characteristics and must be from the breeds listed below.
- Feeder cattle must be pure or crossbred males of the following beef and combined breeds.

Member Countries of the European Union and Other European Countries:

- 1- Beef Breeds: Angus, Charolais, Limousin, Hereford, Belgium Blue, Piedmentosa, Aubrac, Gasconne, Salers, BlondeD'aquitane
- 2- Combined Breeds: Simental (Fleckvieh), Shorthorn, Brown Swiss

Other Countries:

- 1- Beef Breeds: Angus, Charolais, Limousin, Hereford, Belgium Blue, Piedmentosa, Aubrac, Gasconne, Salers, BlondeD'Aquitane, Senepol, Braford and Brangus breed or its crossbreeds. They should not be Bos taurus indicus (Nelore, Zebu, Gyr etc.) or its crossbreeds
- 2- Combined Breeds; Simental, Shorthorn, Brown Swiss

Attachments:

[Turkiye Feeder Cattle Import Certificate to the US.pdf](#)