



# *Fact Sheet*

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## **How America Keeps U.S. Agriculture Exports Safe**

The United States is the largest producer and consumer of poultry meat in the world. We are the second-largest exporter of poultry, after Brazil. American poultry represents 30 percent of the world market. Millions of satisfied customers around the world enjoy American poultry as a safe and affordable form of protein.

139 countries currently accept exports of U.S. poultry. There have been no reported cases of avian influenza or any other communicable disease transmitted through poultry exported from the U.S. There have been no reported cases of avian influenza ever transmitted to humans in the U.S.

The U.S. and South Africa have equivalent biosecurity controls in place to ensure safe poultry production. Beyond that, the U.S. has one of the strongest national surveillance programs for avian influenza in the world. This surveillance has allowed the U.S. to detect incursions of avian influenza quickly and respond appropriately.

The U.S. has enhanced biosecurity controls in place to address avian influenza to protect animal and human health. As an extra level of protection, any state with effected premises is barred from exporting poultry and poultry products. This provides an extra level of protection to our trading partners, which goes beyond international standards.

The U.S. notifies all countries about outbreaks of disease in its production flocks, and even diseases in wild birds. Action to prevent or reduce future outbreaks begins with surveillance in the wild bird reservoir, and extends through all response and control activities. Early detection is important in preventing the spread of diseases, which is why our control systems are so effective and we have never exported any infected poultry.

In terms of the impact imported U.S. chicken would have on the South African market, the agreed to quota on U.S. imports amounts to 4% of the current South African market, and roughly 15% of the total import market. Since 2000, when this trade dispute over poultry started, the South African market has doubled to about 1.7 million tons consumed per year. In that same time, poultry imports have quadrupled. This demonstrates that imports have helped local industry grow across the value chain, while also delivering greater choice for South African consumers.

We expect that half of the agreed to poultry quota would be allocated to historically disadvantaged individuals, thus helping transform the agricultural sector. Small holder meat production is the fastest growing segment of U.S. agriculture, and our industry has promised technical support to South African small farmers to duplicate that success.

U.S. pork is also safe. The U.S. has been free of major communicable diseases in hogs for the last decade. We export pork to over 100 countries and have not exported a diseased animal or transmitted a disease to single customer worldwide. The Pork Quality Assurance Plus program, an industry-led initiative, provides another layer of protection for exports. Farmers who raise hogs for the export market participate in this extra layer of screening and control.

U.S. beef is high quality and extremely safe. The United States exports almost \$6 billion worth of beef each year. We produce 1.2 million tons of beef and consume almost as much.