
News Release

for immediate release

THAILAND OPENING BORDERS TO CANADIAN BEEF

OTTAWA, Ontario, June 3, 2006 – The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, and the Honourable David L. Emerson, Minister of International Trade, have announced that boneless beef and beef products from Canada may be exported to Thailand now that terms of an export certificate have been finalized. This ends the ban imposed by the Thailand Department of Livestock Development in July 2003 after a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was detected in Canada.

The Canadian beef industry has identified Thailand as a market for growth and Thai importers have expressed an interest in Canadian products. Since fall 2005, the two sides have been exploring new business opportunities. In close collaboration with industry, the Government of Canada hosted technical exchanges with Thai officials that paved the way for Canadian exporters of beef and beef products to take advantage of new market opportunities in Thailand.

"The keen interest of our Canadian industry and Thai importers in making this a growing market for Canada has been very encouraging," said Minister Strahl. "This agreement reflects the considerable efforts by the governments of Canada and Thailand over the past few months."

"Resolving market access issues for beef and cattle, based on sound science, is one of the Government's key trade priorities," said Minister Emerson. "This is an important milestone in our efforts to restore market access for Canadian beef with all of our trading partners and is good news for the Canadian beef industry."

Following a series of reciprocal visits and favourable responses to information exchanges, Thailand has agreed to allow the importation of Canadian beef and beef products from cattle under thirty months of age.

Thailand is the latest in a growing number of countries that recognize the effectiveness of Canada's BSE-mitigation measures and have resumed trade in beef and beef products.

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