

### *U.S. Ruminant Exports to Mexico*

Mexico does not require verification of tests or vaccinations for the following ruminants imported from the United States: Steers and spayed heifers shipped as feeder cattle; slaughter cattle, unless from Texas or Missouri; sheep other than rams; and goats other than breeding stock. Because Texas and Missouri are not designated as brucellosis Class-Free States, cattle imported for slaughter from those two States must be tested for that disease. Breeding cattle imported into Mexico from any State are required to be tested for brucellosis only if the animal is less than 6 months of age, or is an official calfhood vaccinate less than 20 months of age raised for dairy production or a vaccinate less than 24 months of age raised for beef. However, all breeding cattle, except for those animals under 1 month of age, must be tested for tuberculosis. For sheep and goats, Mexico requires that breeding and feeder rams be tested for brucellosis and breeding goats be tested for tuberculosis.

As mentioned above, animals other than poultry exported to Mexico and Canada for slaughter are covered by a separate user fee category. As a result, exporters of slaughter ruminants, including slaughter cattle, exported to Mexico or Canada would not be affected by this proposed rule. Slaughter cattle account for the majority of not purebred cattle exported to Mexico from the United States.<sup>2</sup> As shown in Table 1, the annual value of not purebred cattle exported to Mexico from the United States is estimated to be about \$71 million. APHIS export certification data indicate that approximately 62 percent of not purebred cattle shipped to Mexico were exported from the United States for purposes other than slaughter.<sup>3</sup> We can expect, therefore, that the annual value of not purebred cattle exported to Mexico that would be affected by this proposed rule to be approximately \$44 million (\$70.77 million multiplied by 0.62).

This proposed rule would have a negligible economic impact on exporters of sheep and goats shipped to Mexico, as over 99 percent of sheep and 96

percent of goats from the United States to Mexico are intended for slaughter and would not, therefore, be covered by the certificate category and user fee proposed in this document.

### *U.S. Ruminant Exports to Canada*

Ruminants exported to Canada that do not require testing or vaccination are feeder cattle from Hawaii, Montana, and Washington; sheep and goats intended for immediate slaughter; and some purebred cattle, sheep, and goats, depending on the health status of the State or herd from which the animal originated and the time of year the animals are shipped.

Canada requires feeder cattle imported from most States to be tested for tuberculosis and anaplasmosis, and requires certain feeder cattle to be tested for brucellosis and bluetongue. Brucellosis testing is not required for steers and spayed heifers and official calfhood vaccinates that were vaccinated with Strain 19 vaccine. For all other cattle, brucellosis testing requirements depend on the brucellosis status of the animal's herd and State. Currently, all States except Missouri and Texas are classified as brucellosis Class-Free. As a result, feeder cattle exported to Canada from all States except Missouri and Texas are exempt from brucellosis testing. Bluetongue test requirements depend on whether the animal comes from a low-, medium-, or high-incidence State and/or the time of year the animal is exported. For example, feeder cattle imported into Canada between October 1 and December 31 are not required to be tested for bluetongue, regardless of the State of origin.

As an alternative to the foregoing testing requirements, Canada accepts shipments of untested feeder cattle under its Restricted Feeder Cattle Program.<sup>4</sup> To participate in this program, a State must meet certain requirements, including being free of brucellosis and tuberculosis and classified as a low risk for bluetongue, and must submit to Canada summary data for anaplasmosis. Currently, Hawaii, Montana, and Washington are

allowed to export untested feeder cattle to Canada under the Restricted Feeder Cattle Program. Cattle imported by Canada under this program may only enter the country between October 1 and March 31.

Testing requirements for breeding cattle exported to Canada depend on a given animal's particular circumstances. For example, brucellosis and anaplasmosis testing requirements depend on the health status of the herd and State, and bluetongue testing requirements depend on the State's classification and/or the time of year the animal is exported to Canada. Breeding cattle need not be tested for tuberculosis if the entire herd from which the animal originated is tested within the 12 months preceding exportation.

Sheep and goats exported to Canada for immediate slaughter need not be tested for bluetongue. For all other sheep and goats, testing for bluetongue depends on the status of the exporting State and/or the time of year of the export. For example, Canada does not require sheep and goats exported from any State between October 1 and December 31 to be tested for bluetongue, assuming that the animals have resided only in the United States or Canada.

As shown in Table 1, not purebred cattle, which predominantly consist of feeder cattle, account for the single largest category of ruminants exported to Canada that would be affected by this proposed rule. Because Hawaii, Montana, and Washington are the only States currently allowed to export feeder cattle to Canada without tests or vaccinations under the Restricted Feeder Cattle Program, we can expect that exporters of ruminants from those three States would be most affected by this proposed rule. Table 2 shows approximate average annual values of feeder cattle exported to Canada from Hawaii, Montana, and Washington, 1999–2001. These values are for cattle classified under Harmonized Schedule code 010290 (not purebred), and, therefore, may include animals exported for immediate slaughter and other not purebred animals; however, the majority of cattle under this classification are imported by Canada under its Restricted Feeder Cattle Program for feeding and subsequent slaughter.

<sup>2</sup> APHIS, Centers for Epidemiology & Animal Health (CEAH), 1999–2001.

<sup>3</sup> APHIS CEAH, 1999–2001.

<sup>4</sup> Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Client Services Information Sheet No. 14, Restricted Feeder Cattle from the United States.