

Argentina's new market access for pork to China

Noticias AgroPecuarias, 30 April 2019

Mr. Mauricio Macri, President of Argentina, made an announcement on the success in opening a new export market for pork meat into China. The People's Republic of China authorized 3 Argentinian refrigeration plants to export meat pork to the country during the official visit of Luis Etcheveré, the Minister of Agro-industry of Argentina on 23 April 2019.

The Minister of Agro-Industry of Argentina and Mr. Li Guo, Vice-Minister of China's General Administration of Customs, signed in the document protocol allowing the export of pork meat from Argentina to China during the official visit to the People's Republic of China of the Argentinian Minister. The signing is considered to be the end of the long negotiation process carried out by officials from the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Center for Hygiene and Quality of Agricultural and Food Products (SENASA) and the Embassy. It is also considered as a unique opportunity for domestic pork meat producers, because China is one of the world's major consumers and importers. In this visit, three Argentinian refrigeration plants, namely La Pompeya, Campo Austral and Paladini, have been authorized to export pork to China.

Currently, China has an urgent need to import pork to meet the huge demand in the country, after having killed millions of pigs due to the outbreak of African Swine Flu, or equivalent to 18 percent of all pigs in the country, according to the information that the Minister received from the Chinese authorities. China can produce pork up to 54 million tons in 2018, but the domestic consumption is higher than 55 million tons, or equivalent to an average of 40 kilograms per person per year.

In March, Argentina slaughtered a total of 560,639 pigs, calculated as a production volume of 50,110 tons. As a quarter, from January to March, the total of pigs slaughtered will be 1,640,399. The number increased by 3% for slaughtered volume, and 5% for production volume, compared to the same quarter last year. In addition, the export volume of pork products in the first two months also increased by 41 %, compared to the first two months of the previous year. The export volume of Argentinian pork meat, from 2015 to 2018, has also increased by 555%, with an annual export volume of 23,000 tons, and most of them are exported to Russia.

Previously, China has already allowed the import of beef from 28 Argentinian refrigeration plants in September 2018, after signing a bilateral agreement on beef in May. The agreement was to include the export of chilled beef both bone-in and boneless, and bone-in frozen beef, which were added to the authorization of boneless frozen beef that had been previously exported. As a result, the volume of imported beef from Argentina in the first two months of 2019 increased from the import volume in 2017, in which China imported 56% of a total of 550,000 tons of beef that Argentina exported that year.

President Macri showed his confidence saying that China trusts in Argentina because of the quality of the products and the commitment to the agreement. He also said that this is a huge job for manufacturers, carriers, and refrigerating plant operators, and yet another success resulted from the good relationship that Argentina has created with the Asian giant country.

Source: <https://www.noticiasagropecuarias.com/2019/04/30/argentina-comienza-a-vender-carne-porcina-a-china/>

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May 2019