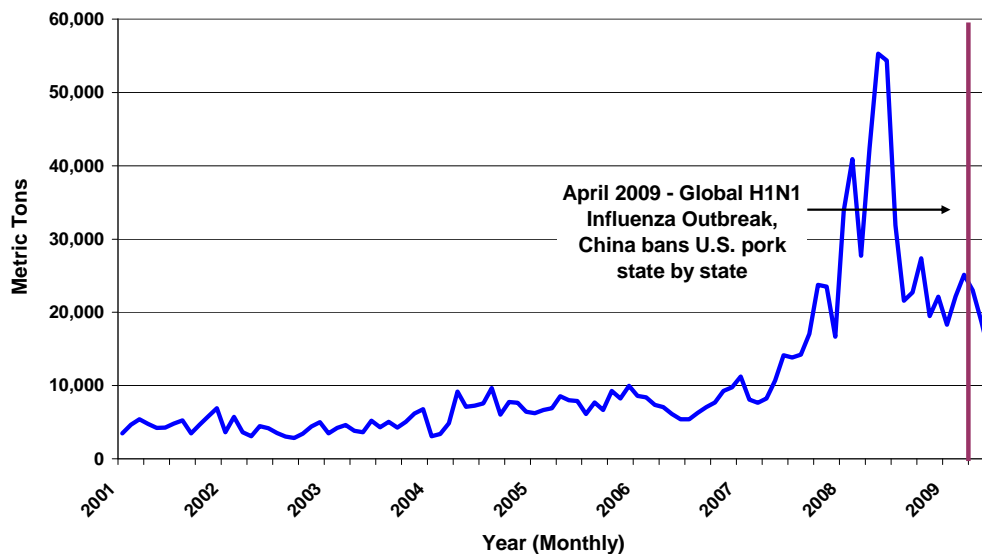


Unintended Consequences Of Agriculture Appropriations Section 723: Continued Ban On U.S. Pork Exports To China

IMPORTANCE: China is an important market for U.S. pork. In 2008, the Asian nation was the second largest volume market for U.S. pork exports, accounting for nearly 20 percent of total exports.

BACKGROUND: China instituted non-science-based restrictions on U.S. pork shortly after the outbreak of H1N1 influenza in late April 2009. The Chinese government has tacitly linked resumption of U.S. pork exports with the resolution of a risk assessment on cooked poultry from China. Since 2007, a provision has been included in the annual Agricultural Appropriations bill that restricts the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service from conducting a science-based risk assessment on cooked chicken from China. Such a provision – now known as section 723 – is included in the House version of the fiscal 2010 Agricultural Appropriations Act (H.R. 2997). Section 723 essentially bans experts at USDA from conducting a science-based review of Chinese chicken processing facilities. The Senate version of the appropriations measure is consistent with U.S. international obligations because it allows for a science-based approach to food safety.

U.S. Pork Exports to China, 2001-Present



If cooked Chinese chicken is deemed to be unsafe by USDA, it should not be allowed into the United States. Cutting off the funding for the risk assessment, however, runs afoul of U.S. trade obligations and gives the Chinese reason to retaliate against U.S. pork exports.

NPPC is urging House conferees to accede to the Senate language and allow a fair, science-based approach to food-safety enforcement with regard to the importation of Chinese chicken.

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