International Trade

National Pork Producers Council

NPPC supports trade agreements and other trade initiatives that open new and expand existing export markets and eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to U.S. pork exports.

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)

Trade is one of the pillars of the IPEF negotiations. However, tariff elimination and agricultural market access are not included in the negotiations. NPPC supports the talks and agrees there must be a level playing field among the IPEF countries for agricultural sanitary and regulatory standards. It will be difficult to attain concessions on longstanding non-tariff issues, though, without market access also being addressed.

Without tariff elimination, U.S. pork will not be able to compete on a level playing field in the region. The IPEF, which includes 14 countries — Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, United States and Vietnam – and 1.5 billion consumers, is expected to close in November. The U.S.-led initiative is set to forge closer ties among nations in the Asia-Pacific region, but pork market access issues have yet to be resolved, including sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues. These include:

- **Vietnam:** IPEF must resolve barriers to white offal market access into Vietnam. In 2011, the country instituted a ban on the importation of all pork offal, without explanation. In April 2011, the country lifted the import ban on red offal (e.g., heart, liver, kidney) but left the ban on "white offal" (e.g., intestine, spleen, tongue, etc.) in place. The country lifted its ban on white offal on Jan. 25, 2014, and many U.S. companies subsequently completed and submitted to Vietnam paperwork to begin exporting white offal to the country. An inconsistent approval process, however, has left many still waiting for approval to export white offal to Vietnam.
- **Australia:** Limits U.S. pork imports for the retail market to products that are heat-processed or frozen and boneless for further processing because of what the country claims are risks associated with the transmission of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) virus to the Australian swine herd. These restrictions are inconsistent with international standards and scientific findings.
- **South Korea:** Korea's government wants retail processed meat packaging and printing on boxes (chilled and frozen boxed pork) to exactly match the storage state of the product. In other words, frozen product must be labeled "Keep Frozen," and chilled product must be labeled "Keep Refrigerated", causing an unnecessary trade barrier. U.S. pork exports to Korea in 2022 were valued at $608 million. Korea is the fifth largest destination for U.S. pork exports.
- **The Philippines:** One of the main non-tariff obstacles that must be addressed is the cold storage requirements for imported pork. Under two administrative orders, the Philippines requires all imported meat to be placed in a cold storage facility. However, domestically produced meat is exempt from this requirement, suppressing demand for U.S. pork and clearly violating World Trade Organization rules related to non-discriminatory treatment of imports.

Facts That Matter:

Pork exports are vital to the U.S. pork industry. **$7.6 billion** is exported to over 100 foreign destinations.

Exports equated to more than $61 of the average price producers received for each hog marketed.

More than **155,000 U.S. jobs** are supported by pork exports, which **contributed over $14.5 billion** to the U.S. economy.

We invite you to learn more about policy issues to support and strengthen America's pork producers at NPPC.org.

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