

Opening new and expanding existing markets is vital to the continued success of the U.S. pork industry. In 2023, the U.S. exported over \$8.2 billion in pork and pork products to over 100 countries. Exports accounted for more than \$64 in value from each hog marketed in 2023.

Background

Pork is an important source of protein in South Africa, with total imports averaging \$57 million from 2020 to 2022, primarily from the European Union and Brazil. Even though the U.S. accounts for 20 percent of the global pork trade, South Africa imports very little pork (<1.3% of total South African pork imports) from the U.S. Since 2016, exports are hampered by unwarranted, non-scientific restrictions preventing the U.S. from reasonable, equitable access to the country's pork market.

Market Access Issues

These restrictions, which are inconsistent with international standards, include:

- No market access for pork offal, heat-treated/canned products, and casings.
- No guidance for the unjustified restriction that lymph nodes must be removed from shoulder cuts.
- Stringent, non-science-based, trichinae-related freezing requirements on U.S. pork. *Trichinella* is not present in U.S. commercial pork production.
- Limits on pork cuts for import because of concerns related to Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) and the pseudorabies virus (PRV). This restriction is inconsistent with U.S. and international standards.

African Growth & Opportunity Act (AGOA)

These continued market access issues indicate South Africa is not meeting its AGOA Sec. 104 obligations to make continual progress on the elimination of barriers to U.S. trade and investment. Because of these unjustified barriers, the U.S. is losing tens of millions of dollars in exports and associated U.S. jobs. Their ban on variety meats (internal organs) is particularly harmful. While limited demand exists in the United States, variety meats are in strong demand in South Africa and other international markets. Gaining access to these markets allows U.S. pork producers to increase the value of each hog sold; provide consumers with affordable, safe options; and reduce U.S. rendering and landfill disposal. In 2015, U.S. beef gained greater access to the South African variety meat market and expanded exports to \$11.6 million in five years. NPPC plans to gain similar benefits, if provided equitable treatment.

South Africa takes advantage of the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program, which gives duty-free treatment to certain goods entering the U.S. Although South Africa is the largest beneficiary of the AGOA program, it remains unwilling to extend reasonable and equitable treatment to imports of U.S. pork.

NPPC's position

NPPC is an active supporter of expanded trade and wants **full market access**. NPPC does not support South Africa reaping the rewards of preferential U.S. tariff programs while providing significantly limited market access for U.S. pork.