



WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE WORLD?



Courtesy of Aviagen
Chickens are the No. 1 live animal traded worldwide.

Inside the global live animal transport industry



Don Jenkins/Capital Press
Groups such as R-CALF USA, Cattle Producers of Washington and Stevens County Cattlemen's Association are urging the U.S. International Trade Commission to recognize imports have seriously harmed blueberry growers.

Ranchers back blueberry growers in trade claim

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Some cattlemen are cheering on blueberry farmers who are seeking protection from foreign competitors, countering the jeers from sectors of U.S. agriculture that depend on serene trade relations.

Almost two dozen organizations, led by R-CALF USA, have sent a letter urging the U.S. International Trade Commission to recognize that imported blueberries are seriously harming U.S. growers.

R-CALF CEO Bill Bullard said Monday the letter was inspired by one sent in December by 31 farm associations and companies warning the commission to not start a trade war over blueberries.

"We felt a need to counter that," Bullard said. "We respect and admire the blueberry farmers for taking this action, which is an action we may be taking in the future."

Blueberry farmers in Washington, Oregon, California and elsewhere claim foreign blueberries flood the U.S. market in the spring and fall, suppressing what should be profitable early and late harvest prices.

U.S. companies that process or grow foreign blueberries blame low prices on U.S. farmers competing with each other.

The Trump administration ordered the trade commission to investigate whether imports are or will seriously injure U.S. blueberry farmers.

The commission is due to make a determination by Feb. 11 and submit a report to the Biden White House on possible trade actions, such as tariffs or quotas, by March 29.

Associations representing commodities that depend on overseas customers — such as apples, wheat and soybeans — argue that tariffs on foreign blueberries could lead to retaliation that hurts other sectors of U.S. agriculture.

R-CALF's opposing view was signed by groups such as the Cattle Producers of Washington and the Stevens County Cattlemen's Association, whose members raise beef for U.S. consumers.

The letter was also signed by groups representing rural residents, small farms and U.S. manufacturers, including the Coalition for a Prosperous America.

Prosperous America CEO Michael Stumo said the U.S.

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By SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN
Capital Press

When day-old chicks cross the world, they usually travel in boxes packed inside a Boeing or Airbus wide-body jet. Tufts of yellow fluff poke through air holes. Against the roar of the cargo plane, there's a chorus of peeping.

In 2019, according to Renan Zhuang, an economist at the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council, America exported 62 million chicks and 79 million dozen hatching eggs worldwide valued at \$595 million.

Chicks were shipped to Canada, Mexico, Indonesia, Guatemala, Vietnam and elsewhere to serve as breeding stock for the meat and egg industries.

Nicolo Cinotti, secretary general of the International Poultry Council in Rome, said these breeders are "essential" to ensuring an adequate poultry supply in many regions of the world.

Chickens are the largest category of live animals traded globally, but overall trade in live animals is a colossal — and growing — \$21 billion industry. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, in 2017, more than 1.9 billion live animals were shipped worldwide, a 140% increase from two decades ago.

But the industry is wrought with conflicts and controversies, ranging from disease restrictions and logistical hurdles to calls for bans on live animal transports deemed inhumane. Some experts say the industry isn't going away, but it can and should be made better.

Off to the races

The market for specialty race horses is one of the fastest-growing, most profitable sectors.

According to U.S. Livestock Genetics Export Inc., a nonprofit that matches international producers with U.S. breeders that offer high-quality genetics, horse exports

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Live chicks are put on an airplane.

Courtesy of Aviagen



Swine are loaded for the flight to China in 2017.

Clayton Agri-Marketing Inc.



Specialty race horse genetics from the U.S. are in high demand around the world.

U.S. Livestock Genetics Export Inc.



Courtesy of Jeannette Beranger
Jeannette Beranger of The Livestock Conservancy says although rare and heritage breeds make up only a small portion of total imports and exports, they are an important part of the industry. Here, she holds her Crevecoeur.

Feds reassess Klamath Project operations

Agency finds no legal right to curtail water deliveries under ESA, as in the past

By GEORGE PLAVERN
Capital Press

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. — The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has no legal right to curtail water deliveries contracted for irrigators in the Klamath Project to protect endangered fish, according to an analysis spearheaded by outgoing Interior Secretary David Bernhardt.

The findings, outlined in a 41-page "reassessment" of Klamath Project opera-



Holly Dillemoth/For the Capital Press
From left, U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore.; Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman; Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt; and U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa, R-Calif., talk July 9 with Klamath Falls-area farmers about irrigation problems.

tions under the Endangered Species Act, could prove to be a game-changer for basin farmers, said Paul Simmons, executive director of the Klamath Water

Users Association.

"When this is carried out on the ground and incorporated into actual operations, it should translate into a situation where the bureau is not

imposing the same severe (water) shortages as it has in the past under the ESA," Simmons said. "It is a pretty basic, fundamental and I think important change in that way."

2020 was a painful year for the Klamath Project, as irrigators saw their water allotment reduced to less than half of normal demand.

Bernhardt, the Interior secretary under former President Donald Trump, visited the basin in July to discuss long-term water solutions after more than 2,000 people attended a tractor convoy and rally, voicing farmers' frustrations.

"He understood what the issue was," Simmons remembers of the meeting. "I'll say

that we had been pushing the need for this kind of reevaluation for a while."

The bureau operates the Klamath Project, which provides water for more than 200,000 acres of irrigated farmland in Southern Oregon and Northern California — powering a \$1.3 billion agricultural economy in Klamath, Siskiyou and Modoc counties.

The ESA requires the bureau to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure operations do not harm endangered fish, namely shortnose and Lost River suckers in Upper Klamath

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