



FAX ALERT!

NMA EXTRA TRIMMINGS

NATIONAL MEAT ASSOCIATION

NMA - West
1970 Broadway, Suite 825
Oakland, CA 94612
Ph. (510) 763-1533
Fax (510) 763-6186

NMA - East
1400 - 16th St. N.W., Suite 400
Washington D.C. 20036
Ph. (202) 667-2108

Email: staff@nmaonline.org ★ <http://www.nmaonline.org/>

To: Beef Slaughterers

Fr: Rosemary Mucklow, NMA Executive Director

Re: APHIS Enjoined from Re-Opening Border to Certain Canadian Beef Products

April 28, 2004

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced today that, effective immediately it is withdrawing import permits for all edible bovine meat products from Canada, except for those products that were allowed into the U.S. on or prior to August 8, 2003 (boneless bovine meat, boneless veal meat and bovine liver from cattle under the age of 30 months). The Agency will notify permit holders of this new action by letter. Effective immediately, the Agency will also deny entry of any edible bovine meat products from Canada that were not authorized for import on or before August 8, 2003. Products that were approved for import from Canada after the August 8 announcement are no longer eligible for import.

These actions will remain in effect until the final rule to allow importation of live ruminants and ruminant products and byproducts from Canada is published. APHIS officials said that this development doesn't affect the timetable for issuing the final rule.

APHIS' action is in response to the April 26, 2004 Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) issued in the R-Calf vs. USDA case in which R-calf sued USDA to prohibit the Department from implementing an April 19, 2004 decision that would allow existing import permits to cover bone-in, ground meat and further processed bovine meat products from Canada. On April 26, the Judge issued a TRO enjoining USDA "from permitting importation from Canada of all edible bovine meat products beyond those authorized by USDA's action of August 8, 2003 (boneless bovine meat, boneless veal meat, and bovine liver) from cattle under the age of 30 months until the conclusion of the hearing on the Preliminary Injunction." The hearing is scheduled for May 11, 2004.

Visit the August 8, 2003 release on USDA's website at: <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/08/0281.htm>. View the Q&A regarding the release at: <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/08/qa0281.htm>. Only the following products listed in the release are eligible for import from Canada:

- Boneless sheep or goat meat from animals under 12 months of age;
- Boneless bovine meat from cattle under 30 months of age;
- Boneless Veal (meat) from calves that were 36 weeks of age or younger at slaughter;
- Fresh or frozen bovine liver;
- Vaccines for veterinary medicine for non-ruminant use; and
- Pet products and feed ingredients that contain processed animal protein and tallow of non-ruminant sources when produced in facilities with dedicated manufacturing lines.

NMA has received clarification that boneless beef trim is also prohibited, effective immediately, under today's action.

APHIS will be post a list of bovine meat products that are covered by today's announcement on its website shortly: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>.
