

**For Immediate Release:**

February 7, 2012

**U.S. ENDS RESTRICTIONS ON BEEF EXPORTS TO UAE**

U.S. Department of Agriculture today eliminated regulations requiring that all U.S. beef exported to the United Arab Emirates be certified as free of “mad cow” disease.

The USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service eliminated the burdensome regulations following an announcement by the UAE last month lifting its ban on U.S. beef products from cattle more than 30 months old at the time of slaughter. Today’s action by the USDA was the last step required to officially remove the restriction for U.S. exporters.

“This is a great step toward expanding U.S. presence in one of the most important trading hubs in the Middle East,” said Michael Imgarten, president of United Source One, a leading exporter of U.S. prime beef to the region. “The U.S. food export industry welcomes the final end to this trade restraint. U.S.-raised beef is the safest and highest quality meat produced anywhere on the globe.”

The UAE imposed the restrictions in 2009, six years after a 2003 reported U.S. incident of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), known as mad cow disease. No cases of BSE have been reported in the United States since 2006.

The USDA said on its website today, “The Export Verification (EV) program for beef to the United Arab Emirates is no longer required.”

To see the full USDA text, visit this website:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/United\\_Arab\\_Emirates\\_Requirements/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/United_Arab_Emirates_Requirements/index.asp)

Imgarten said the UAE action will aid exporters seeking to expand their U.S. businesses overseas as U.S. beef sales continue to suffer in the struggling domestic economy.

While most beef in the United States is produced from cattle less than 30 months of age, the complex USDA documentation required to export to the UAE eliminated an estimated 80 percent of the available U.S. beef products from consideration.

“For the first time since early 2009, U.S. beef exporters are now can compete fairly with Australia, Brazil and other countries in the UAE which is one of the fastest-growing consumers of beef in the Middle East,” said Imgarten.

Imgarten has been instrumental in the U.S. beef export industry’s work with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, members of Congress and UAE officials to remove the ban. U.S. officials urged the UAE to drop the restrictions, calling them scientifically unjustified.

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