

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: A Huge Win for US Poultry - USDA Intervention Reduces Restrictions on US Poultry in Dominican Republic

Country: Dominican Republic

Post: Santo Domingo

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Export Accomplishments - Market Access, Livestock and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Directory of Livestock of the Dominican Republic (DIGEGA) agreed on new requirements for U.S. poultry access to the Dominican Republic (DR). The new requirements significantly reduce the burden of restrictions on U.S. poultry established by the DR due to the 2022 outbreak of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). The major change in the agreed requirements allows U.S. counties free of HPAI to export their poultry products to the DR. In addition, restricted counties will be limited to those with detections of HPAI in poultry, as defined by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). The updated requirements are expected to position U.S. poultry producers to regain market share lost to Brazilian exports of poultry to the DR.

Agreed Requirements

After over a year of intense negotiations between USDA and DIGEGA, on August 23, 2023, both countries agreed on new requirements for access of U.S. live birds, hatching eggs, products and poultry by-products to the Dominican Republic. The negotiations came about after the Dominican Republic issued restrictions on U.S. poultry due to the outbreak of HPAI that started in 2022 (see Background section below).

The major change in the agreed requirements allows U.S. counties free of HPAI to export their poultry products to the DR, removing a barrier that had determined export eligibility on a state-by-state basis. Furthermore, the countries agreed:

- To limit any restrictions due to detections of HPAI to poultry as defined by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH formally known as OIE);
- To submit a health certificate that will specify the facility number and the name of the county of origin of the product. The certificate will also certify that the poultry and poultry products were derived from birds raised, slaughtered, processed, and stored in a county free from HPAI infection in poultry and not located wholly or in part within a radius of 10 km from the affected areas. Additionally, the certificate will certify that the birds were born 14 days before the initiation of the outbreak and did not show signs of disease during pre- and postmortem inspection;
- That USDA's Animal Plant Health and Inspection Services (APHIS) will initiate removal of HPAI restrictions, 28 days after completion of virus elimination, in accordance with recommendations of WOA articles 10.4, 10.4.6, and 10.4.266 to 10.4.30.

For more information on eligibility to export U.S. poultry products to the Dominican Republic, please consult USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) Export Library [here](#).

Background

The discussion of new requirements began on March 15, 2022, when DIGEGA officially informed USDA that due to the health situation in the United States regarding HPAI, the Dominican Republic would only authorize imports of raw poultry, products and by-products from states free of this disease, including batches of raw products prior to the outbreaks. This change implied that U.S. states with "non-poultry" detections (non-commercial or detected in wild birds not present on commercial farms) of HPAI, as defined by the WOA were not able to export poultry products to the Dominican Republic. In addition, it also implied prohibiting exports of poultry products produced, processed or stored before the detection of HPAI in such state.

Those restrictions prompted immediate action from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and APHIS to engage on several occasions with both Ministry of Agriculture and DIGEGA authorities, including the Minister of Agriculture, the Director of DIGEGA and the DR Chief Veterinarian Officer (CVO) and other senior members of the Dominican Government. USDA's effort focused on recognizing the need for Dominican authorities to protect their poultry industry from foreign diseases such as HPAI,

while emphasizing such protection should be determined based on science and principles established by WOA. H.

Expected Impact of the New Requirements

As a result of the restrictions announced by DIGEGA on March 12, 2022, Dominican importers struggled to source poultry and poultry products from U.S. states free from HPAI. Brazil stepped into this void and, coupled with other DR policy measures, was able to strongly position themselves in the local poultry market. In fact, Brazil has become the largest supplier of poultry meat to the Dominican Republic, accounting for 53 percent (US\$38.0 million) of total reported exports to the Dominican Republic as of June 2023. The United States supplied 46 percent (US\$33.3 million) during the same time period.

Post estimates that the new agreed requirements for U.S. poultry will result in a reversal of that trend, as the United States should be able to recover a significant share of total exports of poultry to the Dominican Republic in the short term. This will represent additional exports of millions of dollars for U.S. poultry producers in 2023 and beyond.

Attachments:

No Attachments.