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**Date:** 5/14/2015

**GAIN Report Number:**

## **Ecuador**

**Post:** Quito

### **Ecuador's Cattle Buying Mission Yields a Resounding Success**

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

Export Accomplishments - Market Access

Livestock and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

The FAS Quito supported Ecuador cattle buying mission to Texas and Florida (April 3-14, 2015) resulted in a \$739,000 government purchase of beef and dairy cattle, far exceeding the earlier purchase estimate of \$250,000 (50 animals). This remarkable sale marks the first export of U.S. live cattle to South America since the 2003 occurrence of *bovine spongiform encephalopathy* (BSE) in the United States. Minister of Agriculture Javier Ponce led the team that purchased 167 bulls and heifers. Ecuador plans to purchase 20,000 to 30,000 head of cattle over the next three years. Ecuadorian dairy farmers and cattle ranchers indicate to FAS Quito their intent to make significant U.S. live cattle purchases.

**General Information:**

The FAS Quito supported Ecuador cattle buying mission to Texas and Florida (April 3-14, 2015) resulted in a \$739,000 government purchase of beef and dairy cattle, far exceeding FAS Quito's earlier purchase estimate of \$250,000 (50 animals). This remarkable sale marks the first export of U.S. live cattle to South America since the 2003 occurrence of *bovine spongiform encephalopathy* (BSE) in the United States. Minister of Agriculture Javier Ponce led the team that purchased 167 bulls and heifers (67 from Texas and 100 from Florida). U.S. industry donated four additional animals from Texas and 30 straws of high quality genetic material (i.e., semen) for the Ministry's genetic research center. A total of 171 animals have already been placed in a 30-day quarantine period, placing their arrival by air in Ecuador tentatively on May 20, 2015. The animals upon arrival in Ecuador will be isolated for an additional 30-day period.



Ecuador plans to purchase 20,000 to 30,000 head of cattle over the next three years. The United States and Paraguay are the only countries with export protocols in place at this time. The government will auction the cattle to small- and medium-size ranchers in order to rebuild the national herd, aiming to commence exporting beef regionally by 2017. Additional buying missions are being planned throughout this year. Ecuadorian dairy farmers and cattle ranchers are indicating to FAS Quito their intent to make significant U.S. live cattle purchases in the coming months.

