

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Trade Assistance in the Benelux Countries

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Export Accomplishments - Other

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Report Highlights:

The sea and airports in the Benelux countries are important entry points for U.S. agricultural and food products shipped to the EU. This report describes recent instances in where FAS The Hague's advocacy and intervention facilitated the release of U.S. goods, valued in the first quarter of 2012 at three quarters of a million USD.

The seaports of Rotterdam and Antwerp, and the airport Schiphol Amsterdam are important entry points for U.S. agricultural products shipped to the EU. Due to the volume of trade, and often complex import requirements, USDA/FAS staff in the Netherlands is frequently called upon to assist in importing shipments from the United States. This report describes recent instances in where FAS The Hague's advocacy facilitated the release, prevented the detention, or reduced the duty applied to U.S. goods. This quarter (2012 Q1) the total value of the shipments was three quarters of a million USD.

U.S. scallops for refusal due to new Format Health Certificate Fishery Products-\$219,050

On January 20, 2012, the NVWA released a consignment of U.S. scallops of a Massachusetts based exporter with an estimated value of US\$ 219,050 due to the intervention of FAS/The Hague. For more information, please view GAIN Report NL2002

Successes in releasing ingredient shipments-\$310,000

In January 2012, FAS/The Hague assisted in releasing shipments with pet food ingredients which were held in the Netherlands and Belgium, see GAIN Reports Continuation of Trade in Animal By-Products, NL2001 and BE2001. The detentions were a result of enforcement of new legislation for animal by products, EC Regulation 142/2011. The total value of the shipments was US\$310,000. USDA/FAS advocacy prevented an annual market loss of about US\$8.8 million. If this blockade of trade would have lasted longer than a month, the end users would have to switch to other ingredients or stop their production of pet food.

U.S. grapefruit released after being held because of weight requirements in the Phytosanitary Certificate-\$75,000

On January 25, 2012, FAS/The Hague was informed by the APHIS office in Brussels that three containers of grapefruit were on hold in Port of Rotterdam. According to the inspection service the weight should be mentioned in box 9 of the Phytosanitary Certificate rather than the amount of cartons. FAS/The Hague contacted the KCB who performs the inspection for the Dutch Plant Health Service (NVWA). On January 26, Post learned that the shipments of a Florida based exporter with an estimated value of US\$ 75,000 had been released.

Release of a container with a pet food ingredients-\$100,000

On February 14, 2012, FAS/The Hague was informed by APHIS Brussels that the Netherlands Food and Consumer Products Safety Authority (NVWA) detained a shipment from Montana with a flavoring product destined as ingredient for pet food. The reason for this detention was that by mistake three Health Certificates were issued. The NVWA requested a declaration stating which Health Certificate was valid. FAS The Hague forwarded the draft declaration to the appropriate veterinarian of the NVWA and verified if it was in compliance with their request. After the approval, both the declaration and the third and only valid Health Certificate were mailed to the NVWA. On February 27, the customs agent informed FAS The Hague that the shipment was released. The shipment of the U.S. product represents an estimated value of US\$ 100,000. The importer's annual trade value of this product is estimated at US\$ 4.5 million.

U.S. egg products released after being held due to different certificates-\$50,000

On March 12, 2012, FAS/The Hague was informed by FSIS that a shipment of egg products was being held in Rotterdam during the document check. The Animal Health Attestation part on FSIS' Model Veterinary Certificate for Egg Products differs from the EU one (a. II.1.2. in the U.S. Cert is numbered as II.1.1. and b. the text in the U.S. Cert is shorter than the text in the EU Cert). The Wakefield (NE) based egg product exporter claimed to have used the FSIS Model Certificate several times to the Netherlands without any problems; this was confirmed by the Dutch consignee. The NVWA was contacted on March 13 and the following day the NVWA indicated they would release the shipment. Post will follow up with FSIS, USEU and NVWA to discuss the EU Egg Model Certificate to prevent the detention of future shipments. The discussion will focus on the Animal Health Attestation part of the Certificate and on the use of the Certificate (import versus transit). The shipment (18 MT) is valued at US\$ 50,000.

