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China Slated to Resume US Beef Imports by July

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- As previously covered on this [blog](#), U.S. beef has been denied access to China for nearly 14 years due to concerns stemming from a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy that occurred in Washington state in December 2003. In September 2016, China [announced](#) that it had lifted its ban on imports of U.S. beef, but attempts to negotiate the technical terms of access faltered in the ensuing months, and so – to date – American beef producers have not yet been able to resume exports to China.
- Late yesterday, the White House [announced](#) that China would resume beef imports no later than [July 16, 2017](#) as part of a broader trade agreement with China that also aims to improve access of American electronic payment providers and natural-gas exporters to the Chinese market. In return, in the realm of agriculture, the U.S. has [pledged](#) that it will remove obstacles to importing cooked Chinese poultry meat.
- The restoration of U.S. beef access to China represents a financial win for American beef producers as the Chinese market for American beef exports stands at an estimated \$2.6 billion. Following the White House announcement, [The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association](#) issued a [press release](#) noting that “It’s impossible to overstate how beneficial this will be for America’s cattle producers.”



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