

Brazil Considers Removing Ethanol Tariff



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According to Brazil's [Agriculture Minister Blairo Maggi](#), [Brazil is considering lifting the 20 percent tariff on ethanol imports from the U.S.](#) Demand for ethanol in Brazil has increased due to record-high gasoline prices. As indicated in the BRAG blog post [Grain, Ethanol Industry Send Letter To U.S. Trade Representative On Brazil Ethanol Tariff](#), U.S. ethanol producers would welcome the removal of the tariff and renewed access to Brazil, which is the largest destination for U.S. biofuel exports. Minister Maggi indicated that the decision to remove the tariff would depend on the U.S. lifting the ban on fresh beef exports from Brazil. In 2017, the U.S. banned fresh beef from Brazil following a food safety scandal and Brazil imposed a tax on ethanol from the U.S. following an increase in imports. While speaking to reporters on January 16, 2018, Minister Maggi stated that “[t]here is, on the part of the United States, a big demand to withdraw [the ethanol tariff] and we also have this problem with beef. . . . Obviously one thing influences and contaminates the other.” According to Minister Maggi, Brazil has addressed all U.S. requirements regarding

the safety of its fresh beef and is awaiting the U.S.'s decision.

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