



# Import and Export of Feeder Cattle - Canada / USA

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## Introduction

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Feeder cattle movement between Canada and the United States is regulated by the respective Animal health Agencies in each country. In Canada, regulations under the Health of Animals Act are administered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), while in the United States relevant portions of the Code of Federal Regulations are administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The regulations in both instances are intended to ensure only healthy cattle are traded without jeopardizing the animal health status of the importing country. In addition, some US states impose additional requirements for importation into their state.

Further information or clarification of the requirements may be obtained from your local CFIA district office (see list under Sources of Additional Information).

## Export from Canada to USA

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Feeder cattle, regardless of age or sex, must meet the following requirements for export to USA:

- Veterinary inspection by private (accredited) veterinarian.
- Unique identification (e.g. CFIA metal eartag).
- Originate from a brucellosis free province and tuberculosis free herd within Canada.
- Animals accompanied by a certificate of health from the accredited veterinarian endorsed by CFIA veterinarian.
- Animals inspected by USDA veterinarian at port of entry into USA.
- Fees under the CFIA cost recovery fees order are \$25.00 for the first animal and \$1.50 for each additional animal certified in the shipment.
- Some states may have additional requirements which become the responsibility of the importer and exporter to ensure compliance.

Finished feeder cattle from Canada consigned to a registered slaughter establishment in the US require no inspection or certification prior to departure. Trucks are sealed at the port of entry and allowed to proceed directly to the slaughter plant.

The Health of Animals regulations provide for three options for importation feeder cattle from USA - depending on sex, state of residency and time of year.

1. Feeder Cattle Regulations. Apply to neutered animals only (steers and spayed heifers). May be imported from any state at any time of year with appropriate testing.
  - Unique identification of animals with health certification by accredited veterinarian and endorsed by USDA veterinarian.
  - Negative to tests for tuberculosis and anaplasmosis.
  - Negative to test(s) for bluetongue. Number of tests required varies and will depend on time of year (vector season) and state of residency. Animals from low incidence states require no test if imported between October 1 and March 31, or single test if imported at other times. From medium incidence states, as for low incidence states except two (2) tests required 30-90 days apart during the period April 1 to September 30. High incidence states require no test if imported October 1 to December 31, but require 2 tests during other times of the year.
  - Inspection by CFIA veterinarian at port of entry and released into Canada if eligible.
  - Cost recovery fees applicable are \$24.00 for first animal and \$1.45 for each additional animal in the shipment payable at time of importation.
2. Breeding Cattle Regulations. Allow for importation of intact animals (male and female) from any state at any time of the year with appropriate testing.
  - Identification and certification as in item 1 above.
  - Negative to tests for tuberculosis and anaplasmosis.
  - Negative to bluetongue test(s). Number of tests depending on state of residency and time of year. Animals resident in states deemed as low risk require no test if imported between October 15 and March 31. From states deemed to be high risk, one test only if imported October 15 to January 15, or 2 tests if imported January 16 to March 31. From April 1 to October 14 test requirements are same as in item 1 above for low, medium and high incidence states.
  - Negative test for brucellosis is required.
  - Require a tattoo with the letters USA in their right ear.
  - Inspection by CFIA veterinarian at port of entry and release into Canada, if eligible.

- CFIA cost recovery fees applicable are \$35.00 for first animal and \$5.00 for each additional animal certified are due at time of entry.
3. Restricted Feeders Regulations. Allow for import of any feeders (intact or neutered) from qualified states during the nonvector season without test.
- Import permit required to import to previously approved feedlot. Permit is valid October 1 to March 31 of the following year.
  - Importation permitted only from qualified states which are tuberculosis and brucellosis free, and are designated as low-risk state for bluetongue and anaplasmosis. As of November 1, 1999 six states have qualified - North Dakota, Idaho, Montana, Washington, Hawaii and Alaska.
  - Unique identification and veterinary health certificate of inspection within 24 hours of importation required. No further endorsement by USDA veterinarian necessary.
  - Exits to trailers sealed at point of loading.
  - Revenue Canada Customs clears shipment at port of entry to proceed to destination. Copy of permit, proper health certification and intact seals verified at port.
  - Eligible loads proceed to approved destination where seals are broken and animals off loaded into segregated holding area. Within two working days of importation a CFIA designated inspector verifies the seals and identification of load.
  - Animals are restricted from commingling with other cattle until post-entry treatments are completed. These treatments include chlortetracycline orally or oxytetracycline injectable according to prescribed regimes plus administration of an avermectin product.
  - CFIA cost recovery fees applicable include \$300.00 for inspection and consideration of the facility (feedlot), \$60.00 for consideration of the application for permit, plus \$1.50 for each animal imported.

## Sources of Additional Information

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CFIA website: <http://www.cfia-acia.agr.ca>

CFIA District Offices in Alberta:

- Brooks: (403)362-3539
- Calgary: (403)299-7680
- Edmonton: (780)495-3075
- Grande Prairie: (780)831-0337
- Lethbridge: (403)382-3120
- Red Deer: (403)340-4204
- Stettler: (403)742-2970
- Vermilion: (780)853-5637
- Wetaskiwin: (780)352-3955