



**Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection Service**

4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737  
Voice 301-851-4100  
Web: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

# News Release

Contact:  
Workabeba (Abby) Yigzaw (301) 851-4096  
Lyndsay Cole (970) 494-7410

## **USDA Proposes to Allow Importation of Beef from Specific Brazilian States**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 2013--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to amend its regulations to allow, under certain conditions, the importation of fresh beef from specific Brazilian states. Earlier in the week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Supply (MAPA) issued a joint statement affirming their mutual commitment to science-based rulemaking and announcing both countries agreed to a path forward to address rules that currently limit bilateral beef trade.

The proposed regulation changes would allow the importation of chilled or frozen beef while continuing to protect the United States from an introduction of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

Based on a risk assessment and series of site visits, APHIS concluded that Brazil has the veterinary infrastructure in place to detect and effectively eradicate an FMD outbreak if necessary. And, imported beef would be subject to regulations that would mitigate the risk of FMD introduction, including movement restrictions, inspections, removal of potentially affected parts and a maturation process. Prior to actual importation of beef from these Brazilian states, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service must also determine Brazil as eligible to export fresh/frozen beef products after a final regulation by APHIS has been published.

FMD is a highly contagious viral disease of cloven-hoofed animals that is only rarely transmitted to humans. APHIS has a strong system in place for detecting and responding to outbreaks of foreign animal diseases, including FMD, and places restrictions on affected regions to protect against the introduction of diseases of concern. All imported meat and meat products must follow USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service regulations for food safety and labeling.

This action is expected to be published in the December 23, 2013 *Federal Register*.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before February 21, 2014. You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to [www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2009-0017-0001](http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2009-0017-0001).
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2009-0017, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at at [www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2009-0017](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2009-0017) or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. To facilitate entry into the comment reading room, please call (202) 690-2817.

#

Note to Reporters: USDA news releases, program announcements and media advisories are available on the Internet and through Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds. Go to the APHIS news release page at [www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom) and click on the RSS feed link.

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-327 or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).*