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Importing Live Cattle and Bison From Mexico to the United States

Last Modified:

ALERT

As of May 11, 2025, APHIS has suspended importation of live cattle and bison originating from or transiting Mexico through U.S. ports of entry along the southern border, due to the continued and rapid northward spread of New World screwworm. For more information about the suspension, see the [USDA press release](#).



APHIS regulates the importation of all ruminants and their germplasm (embryos/oocytes, semen, cloning tissue) to prevent the spread of animal diseases. **Ruminants** include all animals that chew the cud, such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, deer, antelopes, camels, llamas, and giraffes.

[View Countries From Which Bovines and Their Germplasm May Be Imported](#)

Requirements

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Ports of Entry

Southern Border Ports With Facilities Currently Approved by APHIS To Export Bovines to the United States:*

- Douglas, AZ/Agua Prieta, Sonora
- Nogales, AZ/Nogales, Sonora

- Santa Teresa, NM/San Jeronimo, Chihuahua
- Presidio, TX/Ojinaga, Chihuahua

Air/Ocean

- Newburg, NY
- Miami, FL
- Los Angeles, CA

*APHIS continues to inspect port facilities for compliance under the New World screwworm protocol. Additional ports of entry will be included as they are approved.

For list of special/limited ports of entry, see [9 CFR 93.403](#) .

Live Domestic Cattle and Bison

Protocols for the Import of Feeder Cattle, Breeding Cattle, and Cattle for Immediate Slaughter From Mexico to the United States; No Permit Is Required

- [Protocol for the Import of Sexually Intact \(Breeder\) Bovines from Mexico into the United States](#) (341.58 KB)
- [Model Health Certificate: Breeding Cattle and Bison From Mexico](#) (343.46 KB)
- [Protocol for the Import of Steers and Spayed Heifers Cattle and Bison \(Feeders\) From Mexico](#) (376.49 KB)
- [Model Health Certificate: Feeder Cattle and Bison From Mexico](#) (340.67 KB)
- Model Health Certificate: [Slaughter Cattle and Bison From Mexico](#) (73.92 KB)
- [Transit Canadian Cattle and Bison to Mexico](#) (39.39 KB)
 - [Questions and Answers: Transit Canadian Cattle and Bison to Mexico](#) (31.37 KB)

Bovine Tuberculosis Requirements for Cattle From Mexico

- [VS Bulletin 2023.1: Bovine Tuberculosis Testing Requirements for Cattle Imported to the United States From Mexico](#) (273.92 KB)

New World Screwworm Requirements for Cattle and Bison From Mexico

- [APHIS-SENASICA New World Screwworm Protocol for the Importation of Ruminants From Mexico to the United States](#) (394.1 KB)
- [New World Screwworm Inspection and Treatment Certificate for Cattle Exported to the United States](#) (114.9 KB)
- [Addendum to the Zoosanitary Export Certificate of Official Export Inspection and Freedom From New World Screwworm for Cattle Exported to the United States](#) (81.57 KB)

Additional Import Guidance

- [APHIS Minimum Criteria for Approval and Supervision of Export Gathering Centers in Mexico](#) (335.39 KB)
- [VSG 13416.2: Spayed Heifers From Mexico](#) (1.21 MB)
- [VSG 13414.2: Branding Requirements for Imported Mexican Bovines](#) (275.98 KB) (Cattle/Bison)

Bovine Embryos

Bovine embryos are **not** permitted to be imported from Mexico at this time.

Bovine Semen

Bovine semen is **not** permitted to be imported from Mexico at this time.

What You Need To Know

- U.S. transits are classified as shipments presented to a U.S. port of entry for conveyance purposes to then be transported to a destination country shortly after.

- [Notice Regarding APHIS Live Animal Import and Third-Country Import Transit Permits](#) (272.29 KB)
- Please note that any animals and their germplasm transiting the United States must not transit countries with questionable disease statuses prior to reaching a U.S. port of entry.
- All transits require a contingency plan. Submit your contingency plan with your permit application ([VS 17-129](#) (211.74 KB)) to laipermits@usda.gov. To submit an import permit electronically, visit [APHIS eFile](#).

If you are applying to import live animals, semen, and embryos, you may submit applications by email to laipermits@usda.gov.

Contact Us

[Download contacts](#)

Live Animal Imports

For questions about import permits or permit applications:

Live Animal Import Permit Team

Email: laipermits@usda.gov

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

For general questions related to the import of a live animal:

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

[All Contacts](#)

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