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Importing Live Cattle and Bison from Canada to the United States

Last Modified:



USDA 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 which 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

[Expand All](#)

Ports of Entry

Northern Border Ports

- Idaho: Eastport
- Maine: Houlton and Jackman
- Michigan: Detroit, Port Huron, and Sault Ste. Marie
- Minnesota: Baudette
- Montana: Opheim, Raymond, and Sweetgrass
- New York: Alexandria Bay, Buffalo, and Champlain
- North Dakota: Dunseith, Pembina, and Portal
- Vermont: Derby Line and Highgate Springs
- Washington: Oroville and Sumas

Air/Ocean

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

** Please see [9CFR 93.403](#) for list of special/limited ports of entry

Live Domestic Cattle and Bison

- Protocol [Wood Bison from Canada](#) (334.78 KB)
- Protocol [Cattle and Bison from Canada](#) (258.63 KB)

Guidance specific to the importation of Cattle/Ruminants from Canada

- [Addendum for Rest Stops for Breeding Cattle from the United States and Canada](#) (25.08 KB)
- [Feed, Water, and Rest Stations](#)
- [List of Plants Approved to Handle Immediate Slaughter Animals](#)

Feeder Calves (“bob” calves under 21 days)

- [Destination Inspection and Country Mark Verification](#) (149.76 KB)
- [Destination Facility Approval Requirements](#) (127.16 KB)
- Port of Entry Pilot Project Information

[Update: Import Alert: Pre-Shipment Approval and Destination Inspection for Calf-Only Shipments from Canada](#) (govdelivery.com)

Highgate, VT (VS.highgate.springs.POE@usda.gov)

Alexandria Bay, NY (vs.alexandria.bay.poe@usda.gov)

Niagara Falls, NY (vs.niagara.poe@usda.gov)

Port Huron, MI (VS.Port.Huron.POE@usda.gov)

Bovine Embryos

A permit and export health certificate are required to import bovine embryos from Canada.

Bovine Semen

A permit is not required to import bovine semen from Canada transported by land; an export health certificate must accompany the shipment and the port of entry into the United States must be notified at least three days in advance. [VS Contacts: Live Animal and Animal Product Exports](#)

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](#)

[Print](#)