



Canadian Meat Industry Welcomes Commitment to Restore Access to Argentina for Canadian Pork

November 18, 2016 [Ottawa, ON] – The Canadian meat industry welcomes the commitment to restore access to Argentina for Canadian pork. The commitment was announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau following a November 17 meeting in Buenos Aires with Argentinian President Mauricio Macri.

“A strategic priority of Canada’s export-dependent meat industry is competitive access to every country in the world,” said Canadian Meat Council President Troy Warren. “Per capita pork consumption is increasing in Argentina and the restoration of access to that market will represent another concrete step toward the realization of this longstanding and high priority industry objective,” added Warren.

The final step remaining in the process will be a visit to Canada by Argentinian food safety officials who will conduct an audit of Canada’s meat inspection system. It is anticipated that, when achieved, the restoration of pork access to Argentina could result in exports of high quality Canadian cuts valued at approximately \$16 million annually.

Totaling 115 kilograms per capita, Argentina is one of the highest per capita consumers of animal protein in the world. Traditionally, pork (currently 14-15 kilograms per capita) has represented a comparatively limited proportion of animal protein consumption compared to beef and chicken. Recently, there has been a tendency toward increasing consumption of pork, a trend that the Argentinian Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and the Environment projects will result in a doubling of pork consumption between 2010 and 2020.

Canada’s meat processing industry includes some 400 federally registered establishments, providing safe, high quality protein for Canadian consumers as well as adding jobs and contributing to economic activity in both rural and urban communities across Canada. With annual sales of \$24 billion, exports of \$5.7 billion, and 65,000 jobs, the Canadian meat industry is the largest component of this country’s food processing sector.

The Canadian Meat Council has been representing Canada’s federally inspected meat processing industry since 1919.

For additional information, contact:

Ron Davidson
Director, International Trade, Government and Media Relations
613-729-3911, ext 26