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5,000 Metric Tons Of Frozen Meat Returned To Countries Of Origin

by Steven Ranieri

Category/Department: General

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On Aug. 10 in Mexico City, Cesar Gonzalez, leader of the National Livestock Confederation (Confederacion Nacional Ganadera), told reporters that about 5,000 metric tons of frozen meat were recently returned to countries of origin due to failure to meet minimum quality standards. The meat was shipped back to Canada, the US, Britain, Ireland and several unidentified Central American countries. Gonzalez said that Mexico frequently imports meat that has been frozen for 10 years. Next, Gonzalez pointed out that in 1991 only four Mexican companies imported meat, compared to 400 at present. He said the latter "take advantage of [low tariffs] to bring in bad quality meat." Gonzalez asserted that trade liberalization has led to excess imports, and caused severe damage to the domestic livestock and meatpacking industries. The Agriculture Ministry (SARH) recently announced plans for upgrade and expansion of federal meat inspection facilities. At present, 82 such facilities exist throughout Mexico, and another 17 are to be constructed over the next few months. (Source: Spanish news service EFE, 08/10/92)

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