

Under the Food Control Act, direct farmer importation of chemicals to Canada is not allowed. In some cases, other provisions of this Act also influence the decision whether an agricultural chemical will be imported to Canada or not. However, in general, the requirements of the Act are quite similar to those of the corresponding legislation in the United States. Because of differences that do exist or because of the small size of the Canadian market, which may not justify the expense of an importer to register a product in Canada, Canadian farmers sometimes find that a chemical is not available here, although it is used in the United States.

The Canadian veterinary pharmaceuticals industry is small. Over 90 percent of such pharmaceuticals (in terms of value) are said to be imported, with almost 90 percent of imports originating in the United States. Most products imported from the United States are subject to a 10 percent duty. Canadian exports to the United States are insignificant.

Fuel ethanol

Although fuel alcohol produced from agricultural commodities (such as grains and waste products) is not a farm input issue, it is worth identifying as a possible future trade issue. The reason is the potential of fuel alcohol production to affect some agricultural markets for raw materials for and by-products from alcohol production.

The regulated phase-down of lead in gasoline will result in a need for other octane enhancers. A blend of ethanol, methanol, and gasoline is one of several options now being considered.