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# news release

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## U.S. DECISION BRINGS LOWER DUTIES FOR CANADIAN HOG PRODUCERS

Minister for International Trade Roy MacLaren and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Ralph Goodale commented today on the United States Department of Commerce (DOC) final ruling in its sixth administrative review of a countervailing duty against Canadian exports of live swine.

While noting their disappointment that the DOC review upheld the countervailability of Canadian programs, the ministers pointed out that today's decision will result in refunds of duty deposits to Canadian hog farmers of approximately \$1.4 million. This is due to the fact that the level of countervailing duty in effect during the 1990-91 period was higher than the final determination announced today by DOC.

The ministers noted that this ruling will also reduce the deposit rate for all new Canadian exports to the United States. Canadian hog exporters have been paying a deposit of 20.1 cents per kilogram or 9.27 cents per pound (approximately \$20 per hog) on these shipments. "The new rate of 2.95 cents per kilogram or 1.34 cents per pound will substantially reduce farmers' costs," Mr. MacLaren said.

Mr. Goodale criticized the length of time that the DOC took to make its final ruling. The decision was announced 18 months later than originally expected. "Canadian farmers should have benefitted from the return of their deposits much earlier," Mr. Goodale said.

Mr. MacLaren said the Canadian government disagrees with the DOC finding on the countervailability of the National Tripartite Stabilization Program for Hogs. He added that the Government of Canada remains committed to defending the interests of Canadian exporters of live swine to the United States in future administrative reviews by the U.S. DOC.

The federal ministers also expressed their disappointment that the DOC decided to impose the same level of duty on sows and