

this region. In addition, the structural changes taking place in Russia and other countries in the region make it very difficult to identify importers and adequate distribution channels.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Due to highly restrictive import measures, particularly the variable import levy/slucicegate pricing regime, and the third country meat plant inspection directive, Canada has been effectively shut out of the European Community market for pork cuts and processed products for more than a decade. Canadian pork exports to the EC amounted to 17 400 tonnes and only 3 787 tonnes of offal in 1992.

AUSTRALIA

Australian producers continue to put pressure on processors and retailers to source only from Australia and on Australian Quarantine Inspection Services (AQIS) to prohibit Canadian pork imports on quarantine grounds.

KOREA

The current import regime is based on price safety zones for live swine to stabilize the domestic prices of pork. Imports are authorized through tenders, issued by the National Livestock Cooperative Federation (NLCF), when price fluctuations in the domestic live swine market warrants it. Rules governing the importation of fresh and chilled pork are being liberalized at a faster pace than those for frozen pork. Frozen pork is of greater interest to Canada.

CHINA

A key question arising from current trends is the growing economic might of China and how it will influence the international pork trade. China has the fastest growing hog inventory (370 million head in 1993) and is the fifth largest exporter. Firm data is not easy to come by and is considered somewhat unreliable; however, if China could solve its regional foot-and-mouth disease and other diseases, it could not only dominate the Russian and South Asian markets, but make a play for Japan's market. Chinese production is rapidly rising and the technology for product chain efficiencies are being imported regularly from the West. Obviously higher per capita consumption within the country will absorb much of the production growth, but once that is stabilized, the focus will be on export. In terms of competition, Canadian pork is a much higher quality product than Chinese pork and can remain competitive in these markets as the Canadian pork is directed to a different segment of the market than the lower priced Chinese pork.

OTHER COUNTRIES

In the Philippines, import permits are required from the National Meat Inspection Council of the Department of Agriculture and are only issued to meat processors to import pork for reprocessing. This has the potential to restrict and impede access to the market .

Canadian pork exports to Taiwan face high tariffs, restrictive import