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MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONVENES
PROVINCIAL INDUSTRY MEETING ON
CANADIAN EXPORTS OF LIVE SWINE AND PORK TO THE U.S.

The Minister for International Trade, The Honourable James Kelleher, will be meeting with provincial and industry representatives tomorrow, at a meeting he has convened, to discuss the recent actions by U.S. federal and state authorities threatening Canadian exports of live swine and pork.

On Tuesday, June 11th, the U.S. Commerce Department announced its decision that federal and provincial stabilization payments, as well as certain government programs, provide subsidies to Canadian exports of live swine and pork. Accordingly, Canadian exporters are required to continue to post bonds to cover the provisional duty liability. The final resolution of this investigation which was initiated November 23, rests with the USA International Trade Commission (USITC) which must make a final determination by July 25, of injury to the USA industry.

In addition, four state governments have moved to restrict imports of livestock from Canada on grounds that the antibiotic chloramphenicol was not banned in Canada.

"We are very concerned by these actions and the disruptive effects and hardship they are causing our pork producers and meat packers" said Minister Kelleher. "I will be meeting tomorrow with provincial and industry officials to take stock of the situation and ensure that everything possible is being done to provide continued access to the U.S. market for Canadian exporters of live swine and pork".