



news release

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WILSON AND McKNIGHT WELCOME FTA PANEL RULING ON SWINE

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, and the Honourable Bill McKnight, Minister of Agriculture, announced today they were pleased with the decision of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) binational panel on the U.S. fourth administrative review on imports of live swine from Canada.

The panel ordered a remand to the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) concerning the ruling of countervailability of Canada's National Tripartite Stabilization Program and the calculation of subsidies on other programs.

The decision was in response to the Canadian challenge of the countervailing duty of 4.49 cents per pound for the fourth administrative review period of April 1, 1988, to March 31, 1989, imposed by DOC, effective June 21, 1991.

The DOC has 60 calendar days to comply with this remand and return to the panel with a reconsideration of its ruling. Subsequently, other parties have 15 days to comment on the new ruling before a final decision is issued.

"We are encouraged by the panel's decision," said Mr. Wilson. "This is further evidence that the FTA is working."

"The panel stated that the ruling by the U.S. Department of Commerce was not supported by substantial evidence in several important respects," Mr. McKnight said.

The request for the FTA panel review was made jointly by the federal government, the Canadian Pork Council and the Quebec government.

In a related matter, an FTA panel that is reviewing the final determination covering the fifth administrative review period of April 1, 1989, to March 31, 1990, is expected to make its ruling August 21, 1992.

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