

SE News
HD **Perth producers ready for ban \ PORK SECTOR: Russian bans agricultural imports in wake of Western sanctions**
BY MIKE BEITZ , STAFF REPORTER
WC 541 words
PD 9 August 2014
SN Stratford Beacon Herald
SC STRTBH
ED Final
PG A3
LA English
CY 2014 Sun Media Corporation
LP

Pork producers in Perth County could take a financial hit from the Russian ban on Canadian agricultural products announced Thursday, but it won't be the first time the industry has faced challenges from abroad.

Or the last.

TD

"We've had these situations before," said Sebringville-area farmer Doug Ahrens, a local director with Ontario Pork. "It's Russia. It seems to be the way it goes."

Just last year, Russia and **China** threatened to ban the import of frozen pork products from Canadian and U.S. processing plants over the use of ractopamine, a feed additive used to promote lean muscle.

In 2009, Russia imposed a ban on live pigs and uncooked pork from Ontario in response to the H1N1 scare.

"It's the good old world of global economy," said Ahrens Friday with a sigh.

The most recent Russian ban on agricultural imports applies to meat, fish, fruits and vegetables, and **milk** and other **dairy** products from Canada, the U.S., the European Union, Australia and Norway, and comes as a reaction to Western sanctions over the crisis in Ukraine.

Ahrens said the year-long ban will almost certainly have some impact on producers in hog-rich southwestern Ontario, including those in Perth County.

"We'll likely see a little bit of a price decline," he said, adding that it's too early to predict just how significant a hit producers will take because of Russia's move.

Any negative effect will likely be tempered somewhat by the fact that pork supplies are a bit tight right now in North America, noted Ahrens.

Still, Russia is a significant market for Canadian pork producers, worth as much as \$500 **million** in 2012, he added.

The U.S., Japan and **China** remain the top three markets, but there is "quite a swath" of countries across the globe that **buy** Canadian pork, said Ahrens, and that will also help cushion the blow of Russia's ban.

A joint statement issued Thursday by Ontario Agriculture Minister Jeff Leal and International Trade Minister Michael Chan said the province is **firm** in its support for Ukraine's sovereignty, and is also standing behind the province's producers.

"While Ontario's agricultural exports to Russia are small compared to our overall agri-food exports, we have reached out to the Ontario pork sector, which accounts for the majority of our exports to Russia, to better understand how this will impact **business**," they said.

Last year, the Ontario exported about \$18 million worth of pork and pork products to Russia, representing about 7% of the Canadian total.

"Ontario's agri-food sector, in particular our pork industry, is resilient," the ministers said. "Farmers overcome challenges each and every day, all the while producing quality products that are exported to countries around the world."

They pointed out that risk management programs are in place to help producers deal with any income declines resulting from "market events."

mike.beitz@sunmedia.ca

ART file photo by Scott Wishart/Beacon Herald \ Local pork producers may feel the impact of a Russian ban on Canadian pork products announced earlier this week. \

IN i0100119 : Hog/Pig Farming | i0 : Agriculture | i01001 : Farming | ilsfarm : Livestock Farming

NS c312 : External Markets | gtrade : Tariffs/Trade Barriers | c31 : Marketing | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | e51 : Trade/External Payments | ecat : Economic News | gcat : Political/General News | gdip : International Relations | gpir : Politics/International Relations | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : FC&E Industry News Filter

RE russ : Russia | cana : Canada | austr : Australia | caon : Ontario | waustr : Western Australia | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | ausnz : Australia/Oceania | bric : BRIC Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | eeurz : Central/Eastern Europe | eurz : Europe | namz : North America | ussrz : CIS Countries

PUB Sun Media Corporation

AN Document STRTBH0020140810ea890000s