Why the Export Market is Important for U.S. Beef

- The U.S. is the world’s largest beef producer, contributing 20 percent of the world’s total beef production. Top five beef producers are: U.S., Brazil, EU, China, and India.
- The U.S. ranks 4th in global beef exports and represents 13 percent of total beef exports. Top five beef exporters are: Brazil, India, Australia, U.S., and New Zealand.
- In 2018, U.S. beef exports reached $8.4 billion – a record-high.
- Beef is the 4th largest export commodity among all U.S. agricultural exports.
- Japan is the largest export market for U.S. beef, with a market-share of 25 percent, followed by South Korea and Mexico, with market-shares of 21 percent and 13 percent respectively.

![Graph: U.S. Beef Exports to the World: 2005-2018 (Billion Dollars)]

![Pie Chart: U.S. Ag Exports by Commodity (Market-share by value)]

![Pie Chart: Top Markets for U.S. Beef (Market-share by value)]

Source: USDA-FAS
U.S. Beef Imports

- The U.S. is the world’s largest beef consumer and importer, comprising 21 percent of world total beef consumption and 16 percent of world total beef imports.
- According to the USDA, the majority of beef that the U.S. imports is lower quality “grass-fed”, whereas domestic U.S. beef is typically “grain-fed” and higher quality.
- Canada is the largest beef exporter to the U.S., with a market-share of 27 percent, followed by Australia and Mexico, with market-shares of 23 percent and 19 percent respectively.

Source: USDA-FAS