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

- The U.S. is the world’s largest beef producer, contributing 19% of world total beef production.
- The U.S. also ranks No. 3 in beef exports in the world, with a 12% market-share in world total beef exports. Brazil and Australia rank No. 1 and No. 2.
- In 2016, U.S. beef exports reached $5.2 billion, a second record-high.
- Japan is the largest export market for U.S. beef, with a market-share of 24%, followed by South Korea and Mexico, with market-shares of 17% and 15% respectively.

**U.S. Beef Exports to the World: 2006-2016 (Billion Dollars)**

![Graph showing beef exports from 2006 to 2016](image)

**U.S. Ag Exports by Commodity**

*Market-share by value*

![Pie chart showing commodity export shares](image)

**Top Markets for U.S. Beef**

*Market-share by quantity*

![Pie chart showing export market shares](image)

*Source: USDA-FAS*
The U.S. is the world’s largest beef consumer and importer, comprising 20% of world total beef consumption and 18% of world total beef imports in 2016.
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.
Australia is the largest beef exporter to the U.S., with a market-share of 27%, followed by Canada and Mexico, with market-shares of 22% and 19% respectively.