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Importing Live Cattle and Bison From Mexico to the United States

Last Modified:

USDA has announced a phased reopening of select ports of entry along the southern border for the import of cattle from Mexico. For more information, see the latest USDA press release (July 2026).



APHIS regulates the importation of all ruminants and their germplasm (embryos/oocytes, semen, cloning tissue) to prevent the spread of animal diseases. **Ruminants** include all animals that chew the cud, such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, deer, antelopes, camels, llamas, and giraffes.

View Countries From Which Bovines and Their Germplasm May Be Imported

Requirements

Expand All

Ports of Entry

Southern Border Ports With Facilities Currently Approved by APHIS To Export Bovines to the United States

USDA has announced a phased reopening of select ports of entry along the southern border for the import of cattle from Mexico. Dates of port reopenings are as follows:

- Douglas, AZ—August 24, 2026
- Santa Teresa, NM—September 24, 2026
- Columbus, NM—October 26, 2026
- Nogales, Arizona- November 30, 2026

All other southern border ports of entry remain closed for the import of livestock.

View Port Services contacts by State

Live Domestic Cattle and Bison

Protocols for the Import of Feeder Cattle, Breeding Cattle, and Cattle for Immediate Slaughter From Mexico to the United States; No Permit Is Required

- Protocol for the Import of Sexually Intact (Breeder) Bovines From Mexico into the United States (389.5 KB) | June 2026
- Model Health Certificate: Breeding Cattle and Bison From Mexico (219.57 KB) | August 2026
- Protocol for the Import of Steers and Spayed Heifers Cattle and Bison (Feeders) From Mexico (320.46 KB) | June 2026
- Model Health Certificate: Feeder Cattle and Bison From Mexico (219.49 KB) | August 2026
- Model Health Certificate: Rodeo Cattle from Mexico (221.14 KB)
- Transit Canadian Cattle and Bison to Mexico (39.39 KB)
    - Questions and Answers: Transit Canadian Cattle and Bison to Mexico (31.37 KB)

New World Screwworm Requirements for Cattle and Bison From Mexico

- APHIS-SENASICA New World Screwworm Protocol for the Importation of Ruminants From Mexico to the United States (211.59 KB) | August 2026
- New World Screwworm Inspection and Treatment Certificate for Cattle Exported to the United States (26.31 KB) | August 2026
- Addendum to the Zoosanitary Export Certificate of Official Export Inspection and Freedom From New World Screwworm for Cattle Exported to the United States (215.12 KB) | August 2026
- APHIS-Approved Products for Import of Livestock From New World Screwworm-Affected Countries

Additional Import Guidance

- APHIS Minimum Criteria for Approval and Supervision of Export Gathering Centers in Mexico
- VSG 13416.2: Spayed Heifers From Mexico

Bovine Embryos

Bovine embryos are **not** permitted to be imported from Mexico at this time.

Bovine Semen

Bovine semen is **not** permitted to be imported from Mexico at this time.

What You Need To Know

- U.S. transits are classified as shipments presented to a U.S. port of entry for conveyance purposes to then be transported to a destination country shortly after.
    - Notice Regarding APHIS Live Animal Import and Third-Country Import Transit Permits
- Please note that any animals and their germplasm transiting the United States must not transit countries with questionable disease statuses prior to reaching a U.S. port of entry.
- All transits require a contingency plan. Submit your contingency plan with your permit application (VS 17-129 (211.74 KB)) to laipermits@usda.gov. To submit an import permit electronically, visit APHIS eFile.
- If you are applying to import live animals, semen, and embryos, you may submit applications by email to laipermits@usda.gov.

Contact Us

Live Animal Imports

For questions about import permits or permit applications:

Live Animal Import Permit Team

Email: laipermits@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

For general questions related to the import of a live animal:

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

All Contacts
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