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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

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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—*To be determined*
- Columbus, NM—*To be determined*

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](#)
- [VSG 13414.2: Branding Requirements for Imported Mexican Bovines \(Cattle/Bison\)](#)

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](tel: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](tel:301-851-3300)

[All Contacts](#)

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