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Report Highlights:
U.S. red meat exports (predominantly fresh/frozen pork, variety meat and offals) to Mainland China and transshipments through Hong Kong reached $94 million in CY 2006, a 15 percent decrease due to higher export prices. Demand for U.S. beef remains strong and "indirect shipments" to the Mainland may equal or exceed 2003 levels, but official trade will not resume until China and the United States reach agreement on the range of beef products and China's quarantine import conditions. China's beef production in 2007 is forecast to increase 5 percent to 7.9 MMT, while pork production will increase 4 percent to 54.4 MMT. China's beef imports in 2007 are forecast at only 2,000 MT due to the BSE-related trade restrictions. Pork imports are forecast to increase 4 percent to 55,000 MT. China's beef and pork exports in 2007 are forecast to increase by 3 percent, and Singapore recently agreed to import beef from 2 Chinese Provinces.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Beijing [CH1]
[CH]

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Executive Summary

U.S. pork shipments to China and Hong Kong (i.e., muscle meat, variety meal, offals and processed meat) reached $94 million (CIF) in CY 2006, a 15 percent decrease from the last year due to higher export prices. In 2006, the average price for U.S. direct pork shipments to China increased by 15 percent, while the average price for transshipments through Hong Kong increased 10 percent for pork and 188 percent for pork offal. Demand for U.S. beef remains strong in China, but trade resumption during 2007 remains uncertain. As evidence of the sales potential, the trade believes the annual flow of U.S. beef into China through "indirect channels" is probably equal to or greater than the pre-BSE ban 2003 import levels. China and the United States continue discussions on the range of beef products and on China's quarantine import conditions. See CH6074 (dated September 7, 2006) for more background on the U.S.-China beef negotiations that took place during May to July 2006.

During December 2006, FAS Beijing organized the 2nd Sino-U.S. Food Safety Bilateral workshop in Beijing, and the ongoing objective is to smooth U.S.-China trade in meat and poultry products. At the meeting, agreement was reached in several areas aimed to minimize disruption of U.S. exports to China. China agreed to accept industry e-mailed information (i.e., dates of export certificates and the numbers) for meat and poultry shipments, in lieu of their original request that the U.S.-side implement complete electronic, export certification. China also agreed to cooperate in developing microbiological risk assessment and testing methodologies for food borne-pathogens. China did not agree to immediately resume imports of pork from two U.S. plants de-listed due to detections of Ractopamine residues; however, USDA, the U.S. meat industry and the manufacturer of Ractopamine are working to resolve the issue. Finally, as the result of USDA-AQSIQ food safety collaboration, China has not "delisted" any meat and poultry plants since early 2006.

During 2007, FAS Beijing forecasts China's total meat production will increase 5 percent to 84.6 MMT from 2006, with beef accounting for 9 percent, pork accounting for 64 percent, sheep and goat meat accounting for 6 percent, and poultry meat accounting for 19 percent, based on the National Statistic Bureau's newly announced figures for 2006.

China's beef production in 2007 is forecast to increase by 5 percent to 7.9 MMT driven by strong domestic demand and lagging supply. China's beef imports are forecast to remain flat in 2007 due to China's bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)-related restrictions. China's beef exports in 2007 are forecast to increase by 3 percent to 102,000 MT. U.S., Canadian and Brazilian export recovering in world market will shrink China's export share. China's pork production in 2007 is forecast to increase by 4 percent to 54.4 MMT due to slow slaughter. China's pork imports are forecast to increase by 4 percent, not only because of slow domestic slaughter, but also because of the strong RMB.

Cattle and Beef

China's beef production in 2007 forecast at 7.9 MMT, a 5 percent increase

FAS Beijing forecasts China's beef production in 2007 will be the same level as reported in the 2006 livestock annual report (CH6074), 7.9 MMT, but revised the pace of increase down from 6 to 5 percent based on new official beef production data for 2006. Unlike pork and broiler meat, where prices have fluctuated due to AI outbreaks, swine fever disease and pork over-supplies, Chinese beef prices remain high due to strong domestic demand and lagging supply. Strong cattle and beef production will most likely continue into 2008 because the approaching 2008 Summer Olympic Games to be held in China 2008 will stimulate beef demand.

We also adjusted the pace of increase in China cattle slaughter in 2007 slightly down—58.7 million head—due to a reduced slaughter of dairy cows. Post forecasts China's end of year cattle inventory in 2007 to increase by 3 percent, from an estimated 145 million head in 2006 to 149 million head. The increase in inventory is 4 percent lower than in 2005 because of higher slaughter rate in 2006 driven by high demand and good prices. The forecast for the Chinese calf crop in 2007 remains unchanged from the previous annual report (CH6074), which is to increase by 5 percent from estimated 60 million head in 2006 to 63 million head.

Though China is still combating foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks (e.g., four outbreaks occurred in China during January-February 2007), the Chinese cattle herd continues to expand bolstered by genetics and feed improvement, as well as government-supported production practices. The Chinese Government continues to provide farmers subsidized grain prices, and since 2004 cancelled all agricultural taxes. As a result, farmers have increased acreage to grain production the last couple of years. When domestic feed grain demand is strong and feed grain prices are high, the government even reduces corn export levels in order to reverse the increase in feed prices. During January 2007, in response to the rising cost of international oil prices and demand for Chinese corn for production into ethanol, the Chinese Government took the step of controlling corn stocks to ensure adequate feed use.

According to the industry, China now has 15,519 feed processing plants. Feed production in 2005 was 107 MMT and estimated to be over 100 MMT (NOT HIGHER????). Current feed shares for poultry, pigs, fish and ruminant animals are 15:33:11:5. Ruminant feed has increased from 3 to 5 percent in the last few years.

In order to improve the ecology and implement a policy of rotating grazing in grasslands to improve overall vegetation, the Chinese Government has projects to halt or reduce over-grazing on grasslands in Xinjiang, Ningxia, Gansu and Qinghai. MOA estimates that China's natural fresh grass production in 2006 was 943.3 MMT (equivalent to 295.9 MMT dried grass), and the grazing capacity improved over the past year. China's major grasslands are mainly in West and Southwest China, all water-depleted areas, and the warmth of the past few years has caused serious draughts in both grasslands and grain production areas. The water levels in the four important rivers in these areas—Yellow River, Hai River, Huai River and Liao River—have fallen by 12 percent, and soil surface moisture in these areas has reduced by 17 percent on average.

The government also built and improved about 325,000 km of rural roads in 2006 and plans to build and improve another 1.2 million km by the end of 2010. These efforts will make cattle transportation to slaughterhouses more convenient and efficient.

MOA sends technical staff to farmers' households to demonstrate artificial insemination skills for cattle production. Although genetics are being improved to some circumstances, China's high quality beef cattle only account for about 5 percent of the herd, and high quality dairy cattle account for about 30 percent of the herd. After China lifted its ban in 2005 on U.S. cattle genetics due to BSE, the United States became the largest bovine semen supplier to China in 2006. This trend is forecast to continue in 2007. Breeding cattle import rights are no longer granted to only monopoly state-owned companies but are also granted to other companies in order to make import practices more competitive. The import tariff is also zero for breeding animal imports.

All the above policies have helped increase China's beef production. Although increased domestic production may help fill the gap left due to BSE-related import bans and/or high international beef prices, a shortfall in high quality beef will continue due to strong domestic demand and lagging supply.

China Total Meat Production, 2001-2006 (1,000 MT)								
							% Change	
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006/05	
Total Meat	63,339	65,865	69,329	72,448	77,431	80,915	4.50	
Beef	5,488	5,846	6,305	6,759	7,115	7,500	5.41	*
Pork	41,845	43,266	45,186	47,016	50,106	53,000	5.78	*
Sheep/goat meat	2,927	3,167	3,572	3,993	4,355	4,791	10.01	*
Poultry meat	12,103	12,498	13,121	13,514	14,643	14,936	2.00	*
Source: National Statistics Bureau								
* 2006 breakdown is FAS Beijing's estimation								

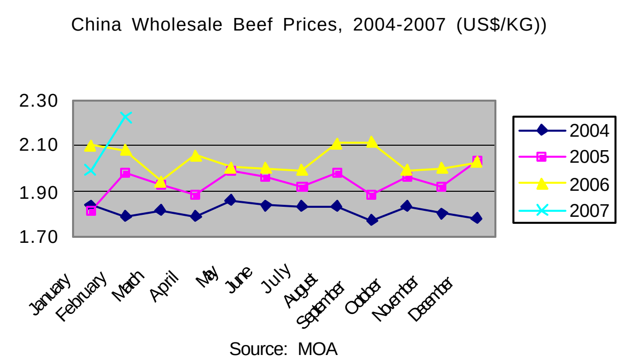
China recently announced the 11th Five-Year-Plan (2006-2010) for Food Development. Pork will account for 60 percent, beef and sheep/goat meat will account for 20 percent, and poultry meat will account for 20 percent (note: the beef share is already nearly 10 percent).

Beef consumption in 2007 is forecast at 7.8 MMT, a 5 percent increase from 2006

FAS Beijing forecasts Chinese beef consumption in 2007 at the same level as our forecast in the 2006 annual report (CH6074), which is a 5 percent increase from 2006. More availability of beef in world markets, due to U.S. exports markets reopening and Brazilian exports expanding, may constrain China's beef exports and dampen domestic beef prices, in turn stimulating domestic beef consumption.

Post adjusted the pace of increase in China's 2006 beef consumption slightly down to 7.4 MMT due to flat imports and increased exports in 2006.

Domestic wholesales beef prices forecast steady generally in 2007



China's beef prices in 2006 increased by 5 percent from the year before driven by strong domestic demand and lagging supply due to consumers' shifting to beef after AI outbreaks in the last few years and swine fever occurrence in 6 provinces in China in 2006. Tight availability of beef in world markets due to the impacts of BSE and FMD-related trade restrictions has pushed upwards international beef prices. As a result, China's imports have fallen, which in turn has supported domestic beef prices at higher levels. Nevertheless, China's wholesale beef prices are still cheaper than imported beef.

The rising incomes of China's consumers translate to demand for higher-priced beef. China's gross domestic product (GDP) totaled RMB20.9407 trillion ($2.7 trillion) in 2006, up 10.7 percent year on year. Real incomes increased by 10.4 percent to RMB 11,759 ($1,568) for urban residents and by 7.4 percent to RMB 3,587 ($478) for farmers.

Post forecasts that as consumer concerns about avian influenza and swine fever fall and consumers gradually switch back to poultry and pork, beef prices will remain stable in 2007. FAS Beijing believes that MOA's average beef prices reflect China's ordinary or low-end products. As domestic production costs rise, the price gap between domestic beef and imported quality beef will narrow, thus leading to more profitable imports and availability of higher quality beef for Chinese consumers in the future.

Beef imports in 2007 are forecast at only 2,000 MT, officially, but indirect trade of U.S. beef likely exceeds this figure

Post forecasts China' beef imports in 2007 at 2,000 MT due to the supply uncertainty of BSE-related trade restrictions, particularly trade of U.S. and Canadian beef. Demand for U.S. beef remains strong in China, but trade resumption during 2007 remains uncertain. China and the United States continue discussions on the range of beef products and on China's quarantine import conditions. China requests that negotiators first complete an import protocol for boneless beef from cattle less than 30 months of age, while the U.S. position is that China agrees to import conditions for a full range of beef and products based on the OIE's classification of the U.S. BSE risk level. Even after China and the United States reach agreement on a trade protocol for U.S. beef, China has indicated that U.S. shipments could not start until Chinese authorities audit (perhaps a representative sample) and register U.S. plants that intend to export beef to China. See CH6074 (dated September 7, 2006) for more background on the U.S.-China beef negotiations that took place during May to July 2006.

Despite the official ban on U.S. beef, the trade believes the annual flow of U.S. beef into China through "indirect channels" is probably equal to or greater than the 2003 import levels prior to China's BSE-related trade suspension. China's borders, especially in the south, remain porous. With U.S. beef imports still banned, the flow of beef and beef variety meats into China over the last three years is reported to continue, but mostly undeclared.

Second, China's beef exports will be constrained as international beef markets reopen and more beef enters the international markets. In turn, the supply of domestic beef will continue to rise, further limiting import demand.

Third, the cost of imported beef remains relatively high. China mainly imports two categories of beef products, frozen quality beef cuts and variety beef, including offals. Domestic products can substitute variety beef, but not quality beef, and the price of imported quality beef tripled in 2006. Nonetheless, FAS Beijing believes that once the United States finishes its negotiations with China on a U.S. beef export protocol, U.S. exports will recover quickly because of consumers' popularity in China, especially high quality beef.

China's year-on-year beef offal imports via direct shipments in 2006 decrease by 42 percent to 4,172 MT valued at $7.58 million. Australia, Uruguay, New Zealand and Argentine in sum had a 95 percent market share. China's indirect imports through Hong Kong were 5,838 MT valued at $7.93 million. Brazil dominated 83 percent supplies valued at $6.9 million taking over U.S. lost market.

Live cattle imports in 2007 forecast to decrease 33 percent to 100,000 head

China's live cattle imports decreased 70 percent in 2006 because of the ban on U.S. and Canadian breeding stock and because of the lower quality of available Australian and New Zealand breeding cattle. Another explanation is the government's focus on promoting artificial insemination as a means to improve genetics. As evidence, the U.S. became China's leading supplier of bovine semen in 2006.

During 2007, FAS Beijing forecasts China's imports will decrease by another 33 percent to 100,000 head. Most of them are dairy breeding cows. The Chinese government is determined to curb malpractices in importing lower quality cows that cannot be used for breeding (please see the previous annual report CH6074). However, world breeding cow prices are too high after the ban on imported U.S. and Canadian live cattle.

Beef exports in 2007 forecast to increase 3 percent to 102,000 MT

During 2006, China exported only 1 percent of its total beef production. However, since China has not started importing U.S. and Canadian beef, China's beef trade surplus is 97,000 MT. Post forecasts the increase in China's exports at 5 percent because the increase in global trade shrinking China's export competitiveness, but also because of the negative impact of FMD-related restrictions. Year-on-year exports to Russia fell by 67 percent due to FMD, and the resumption of U.S. beef exports to Japan impacted China's exports too. Both Russia and Japan are traditional export markets for China. However, Post forecasts China's exports will continue expanding by 3 percent in 2007 due to non-traditional market share increases. China has been trying to explore nontraditional export markets such as the Middle East and Africa. Market promotions in Kuwait and Lebanon have been successful. Recently, Singapore announced import approval for beef from two Chinese provinces.

Live cattle exports are forecast at 54,400 head, the same level of 2006

Hong Kong and Macau are China's traditional live cattle export markets. The Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) announces export quota for various provinces at the end of each year. China's 2007 live cattle export quota for Hong Kong and Macau are 50,000 head and 6,500 head respectively. Post forecasts the quota may not be filled as Hong Kong has reduced live cattle slaughter due to environmental protection and increased beef imports. China's live cattle exports reduced by 8 percent from 59,006 head in 2004 to 54,389 head in 2006.

PS&D tables for cattle and beef

PSD Table									
Country	**China, Peoples Republic of**								
Commodity	**Animal Numbers, Cattle**						(1000 HEAD)(PERCENT)		
	2005	Revised		2006	Estimate		2007	Forecast	
	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New
Market Year Begin		01/2005	01/2005		01/2006	01/2006		01/2007	01/2007
Total Cattle Beg. Stks	137818	137818	137818	141575	140718	141575	145349	143000	145336
Dairy Cows Beg. Stocks	11080	11080	11080	12161	13700	12820	13400	0	13400
Beef Cows Beg. Stocks	65640	65640	65640	68580	68580	68580	71800	0	71800
Production (Calf Crop)	57020	57020	57020	60100	60100	60100	63300	0	63300
Intra-EU Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	50	51	50	25	46	15	22	0	10
Total Imports	50	51	50	25	46	15	22	0	10
Total Supply	194888	194889	194888	201700	200864	201690	208671	143000	208646
Intra EU Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	54	53	54	51	51	54	51	0	54
Total Exports	54	53	54	51	51	54	51	0	54
Cow Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calf Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Slaughter	52876	53618	52876	55800	57311	55800	58800	0	58772
Total Slaughter	52876	53618	52876	55800	57311	55800	58800	0	58772
Loss	383	500	383	500	502	500	350	0	350
Ending Inventories	141575	140718	141575	145349	143000	145336	149470	0	149470
Total Distribution	194888	194889	194888	201700	200864	201690	208671	0	208646
CY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CY. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-143000	0
Inventory Balance	3757	2900	3757	3774	2282	3761	4121	-143000	4134
Inventory Change	2	0	2	3	2	3	3	2	3
Cow Change	7	0	7	5	7	6	6	-100	5
Production Change	5	0	5	5	5	5	5	-100	5
Production to Cows	74	74	74	74	73	74	74	0	74
Trade Balance	4	2	4	26	5	39	29	0	44
Slaughter to Inventory	38	39	38	39	41	39	40	0	40

PSD Table									
Country	China, Peoples Republic of								
Commodity	Meat, Beef and Veal						(1000 HEAD)(1000 MT CWE)(PERCENT)		
	2005	Revised		2006	Estimate		2007	Forecast	
	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New
Market Year Begin		01/2005	01/2005		01/2006	01/2006		01/2007	01/2007
Slaughter (Reference)	52876	53618	52876	55800	57311	55800	58800	0	58772
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	7115	7222	7115	7500	7718	7492	7910	0	7900
Intra-EU Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	2	3	2	3	3	2	4	0	2
Total Imports	2	3	2	3	3	2	4	0	2
Total Supply	7117	7225	7117	7503	7721	7494	7914	0	7902
Intra EU Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	91	87	91	90	100	99	85	0	102
Total Exports	91	87	91	90	100	99	85	0	102
Human Dom. Consumption	7026	7138	7026	7413	7621	7395	7829	0	7800
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	7026	7138	7026	7413	7621	7395	7829	0	7800
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	7117	7225	7117	7503	7721	7494	7914	0	7902
CY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CY. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inventory Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weights	135	135	135	134	135	134	135	0	134
Production Change	5	0	5	5	7	5	5	-100	5
Import Change	-60	0	-60	0	0	0	33	-100	0
Export Change	49	0	49	-1	15	9	-6	-100	3
Trade Balance	89	84	89	87	97	97	81	0	100
Consumption Change	5	0	5	5	7	5	6	-100	5

Cattle and beef trade matrix

China Live Cattle Imports, 2004-2006 (Number of Head)				
	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan - Dec
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	% Change
Origin	2004	2005	2006	2006/2005
World	132,446	49,586	15,072	-69.60
Australia	69,406	35,517	12,265	-65.47
New Zealand	63,032	14,069	2,802	-80.08
United States	0	0	0	0
Canada	0	0	0	0
Mexico	8	0	0	0
HS Code: 010210, 010290				
Source: WTA/GRA China Statistics				

China Beef and Veal Imports, 2004-2006 (Metric Tons)				
	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan - Dec
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	% Change
Origin	2004	2005	2006	2006/2005
World	3,451	1,252	1,388	10.86
Australia	2,159	1,132	1,034	-8.66
New Zealand	825	10	234	2,240.00
Uruguay	2	25	110	340.00
Brazil	422	0	7	0.00
Argentina	0	83	0	-100.00
United States	41	0	0	0.00
Other	2	2	0	-100.00
HS Code: 020110, 020120, 020130, 020210, 020220, 020230, 021020 160250				
Source: WTA/GTA China Statistics				

Hong Kong Re-Exports of Beef and Veal to China, 2004-2006 (Metric Tons)				
	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan - Dec
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	% Change
Origin	2004	2005	2006	2006/2005
World	3,718	729	114	-84.36
Brazil	1,193	138	60	-56.52
Canada	194	98	30	-69.39
New Zealand	1,020	168	0	-100.00
Australia	27	144	0	-100.00
Argentina	159	109	0	-100.00
India	309	25	0	-100.00
Ireland	244	25	0	-100.00
Austria	0	14	0	-100.00
United States	263	1	0	-100.00
Other	309	11	24	118.18
HS Code: 020110, 020120, 020130, 020210, 020220, 020230, 021020 and 160250 ‘Source: WTA/GTA China Statistics				

China Live Cattle Exports, 2004-2006 (Number of Head)				
	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan - Dec % Change
Destination	2004	2005	2006	2006/2005
World	59,009	54,129	54,389	0.48
Hong Kong	47,377	48,003	45,957	-4.26
Macau	5,278	5,746	5,898	2.65
Saudi Arabia	0	0	2,217	0.00
Mongolia	0	0	167	0.00
Laos	0	0	126	0.00
Korea North	330	380	20	-94.74
Jordan	6,000	0	4	0.00
Other	24	0	54,389	0.00

HS Code: 010210, 010290
Source: WTA/GTA China Statistics

China Beef and Veal Exports, 2004-2006 (Metric Tons)				
	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan - Dec % Change
Destination	2004	2005	2006	2006/2005
World	37,171	54,586	60,849	11.47
Hong Kong	15,876	14,862	15,051	1.27
Korea South	3,638	12,139	14,080	15.99
Japan	9,062	14,747	10,439	-29.21
Jordan	739	4,558	4,558	0.00
Kuwait	1,657	2,606	3,668	40.75
Malaysia	1,293	1,186	2,371	99.92
Lebanon	403	571	2,269	297.37
Indonesia	943	1,345	1,502	11.67
Korea North	492	1,142	1,602	40.28
Macau	124	193	297	53.89
Singapore	172	154	88	-42.86
Russia	1,435	219	73	-66.67
United Arab Emirates	783	270	169	-37.41
Other	554	594	4,682	688.22

HS Code: 020110, 020120, 020130, 020210, 020220, 020230, 021020 and 160250
Source: WTA/GTA China Statistics

Import Tariffs on Cattle and Beef, Effective January-December, 2007					
					Effective
		General	MFN	V.A.T. 1/	Rate
					(mfn+vat)
HS Codes					
0102.1000	Cattle, breeding	0%	0%	13%	13.0%
0102.9000	Cattle, other	30%	10%	13%	24.3%
	Beef, Fresh or Chilled				
0201.1000	Carcass & half-carcass	70%	20.0%	13%	35.6%
0201.2000	Other cuts with bones	70%	12.0%	13%	26.6%
0201.3000	Cuts, boneless	70%	12.0%	13%	26.6%
	Beef, Frozen				
0202.1000	Carcass & half-carcass	70%	25%	13%	41.3%
0202.2000	Other cuts with bones	70%	12.0%	13%	26.6%
0202.3000	Cuts, boneless	70%	12.0%	13%	26.6%
Source: China Customs					

Import Tariffs on Beef Offal Effective January-December, 2007					
					Effective
HS Code		General	MFN	V.A.T.	Rate
					(mfn+vat)
0206.1000	Beef offal, fresh or chilled	70%	12%	13%	26.6%
0206.2100	Beef tongues, frozen	70%	12%	13%	26.6%
0206.2200	Beef liver, frozen	70%	12%	13%	26.6%
0206.2900	Other beef offal, frozen	70%	20%	13%	35.6%
Source: China Customs					

CHINA WHOLESALE BEEF PRICES ON AVERAGE, 2004-2006 ($/KG)					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Change '2006/05
January	1.84	1.81	2.10	1.99	-5.24
February	1.79	1.98	2.08	2.23	7.21
March	1.82	1.93	1.94		
April	1.79	1.88	2.06		
May	1.86	1.99	2.01		
June	1.84	1.96	2.00		
July	1.83	1.92	1.99		
August	1.83	1.98	2.11		
September	1.77	1.88	2.12		
October	1.83	1.96	1.99		
November	1.80	1.92	2.00		
December	1.78	2.04	2.03		
Source: The Ministry of Agriculture					

Swine and Pork

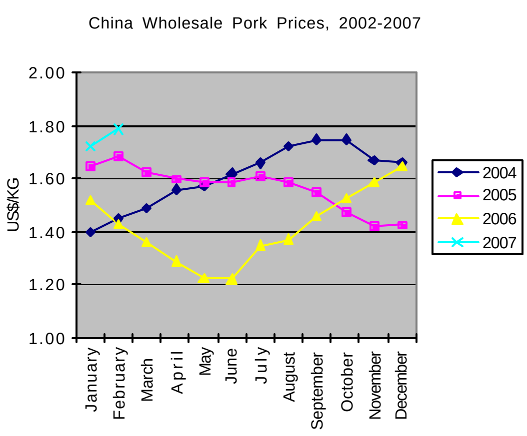
China's pork production in 2007 is forecast to increase 4 percent to 54.4 MMT

Post adjusted China's pork production in 2007 slightly down to 54.4 MMT from the previous estimation of 55.8 MMT in the last livestock annual report (CH6074) due to estimated slower slaughters in 2007.

China's swine and pork production in 2006 experienced low prices in the first 3 quarters and high prices in the last quarter. Farmers expanded placements when swine and pork profits increased during 2003-2004 due to consumers' switch from poultry to red meats due to fears of highly pathogenic influenza. As a result, sow inventory beginning stocks in 2005 increased considerably and year-on-year pig crop production increased by 8 percent to 45 million head. Over supply led to low pork prices from September 2005 to September 2006. Swine fever occurred in Anhui, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Hunan, Hubei and Jiangsu Provinces, resulting in reduced pork consumption, which in turn further pushed down pork prices.

Recently, China's hog production costs have been going up due to corn, soybean, soybean product, and petrol price increases. According to the industry, general pork production costs during the low price period were $0.28-29 (RMB 2.1-2.16) per kilogram. Under such prices, swine and grain conversion was 1:4.6-4.81, lower than the 1:5.5 critical profit point. Feed ingredients mainly include corn, soy meal and wheat, and corn accounts for 60-70 percent. Corn prices significantly impact China's swine production.

During the low price period of 2006, farmers quickened swine and sow slaughters at the cost of lighter average carcass weights. As the swine disease came under control, pork consumption started picking up in October 2006. The reduced pork supplies, combined with strong demand during the New Year holiday and the traditional Chinese Spring Festival in February 2007, have pushed pork prices up again since October. The current swine and grain conversion is 1:5.72. Pork production is currently profitable.



(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)

Post forecasts China's year-on-year pig crop production in 2007 to increase by 2 percent to 750 million head due to reduced sow stocks. However, the sow stocks are still higher than the normal 8 percent of the total stocks. As China's beef, sheep and goat meat production increases steadily, and consumers gradually shift back to poultry meat after they become accustomed to HPAI outbreak news, pork demand will be relaxed. However, if farmers expand pig placements quickly again when seeing good profit, pork prices will be constrained.

Feed development benefits swine industry

China's swine production has benefited significantly from feed development. The total feed production in 2006 was estimated at 109 MMT, about the 2 percent increase from 2005. While compound feed develops steadily, concentrated feed and additive premixed feed have been developing too. Large commercial farms usually use compound feeds, and small or backyard farms mainly use the other two feeds to mix with their own grain stuffs. According to the feed industry, feed quality improvement has increased the efficiency of swine production. Compared with the objectives of the 8th Five-Year-Plan (1990-1995), the current swine fattening period has been shortened about 40 days, reflecting that more and more back yard farms are using concentrated feed and premixed feeds. The Chinese 11th Five-Year-Plan for Feed Development (2006-2010), which targets feed production capability at 170 MMT, stresses safety, high quality, high efficiency and sustainable development. This will not doubt continue to benefit China's swine industry.

China Feed Production, 1996-2006, (1,000 MT)				
Year	Compound	Concentrated	Additive Premixed	Total Production
1996	51,180	4,190	730	56,100
1997	54,740	7,010	1,250	62,990
1998	55,730	8,870	1,380	65,990
1999	55,530	10,970	2,230	68,730
2000	59,120	12,490	2,530	74,290
2001	60,870	14,190	3,010	78,060
2002	62,390	17,640	3,160	83,190
2003	64,280	19,580	3,260	87,120
2004	70,310	22,240	4,060	96,600
2005	77,570	24,980	4,720	107,270
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	109,000
Source: China Feed Association				

Pork consumption in 2007 forecast to increase by 4 percent to 53.8 MMT

Post adjusted China's pork consumption number in 2007 slightly down to 53.8 MMT from the previous forecast of 55.3 MMT in the last livestock annual report (CH6074) due to estimated slow slaughter. Pork is still the most important animal protein for Chinese consumers though the trend is going down due to availability of other meats, milk and aquatic products. Pork share in China's total meat production is forecast to drop 4 percent to 60 percent by 2010 based on China's 11th Five-Year-Plan for Food Development. Although China is a large pork producing country, 99 percent of its total pork is consumed in China due to animal diseases such as FMD and swine fever.

Pork imports in 2007 forecast to increase 4 percent to 55,000 MT

This report's production, supply and demand table (i.e., PSD) includes the tariff line HS Code (HSC) 160249 for China, which was not included in the past. If this HSC is excluded, China's imports through Hong Kong or exports to other countries will be impacted significantly.

Post forecasts China's pork imports in 2007 to continue growing because of slow domestic slaughters and the uncertainty of beef imports. The pace of increase in China's pork imports is forecast to be lower than 2006 due to substitution of poultry meat and pork offal imports.

U.S. pork exports to China in 2007 are forecast to increase by 5 percent to 44,000 MT. China's pork import data and U.S. export data to China differ by 30,247 MT as the result of direct shipments to the Mainland in 2006. FAS Beijing believes "grey channel" trade in South China explains this difference. U.S. pork offal exports to China in 2006 increased by 12 percent to 33,422 MT, and exports through Hong Kong increased by 36 percent to 5,871 MT. In 2006, the average price for U.S. direct pork shipments to China increased by 15 percent, while the average price for transshipments through Hong Kong increased 10 percent for pork and 188 percent for pork offal. This is hopefully to change in 2007 with an expectation of strong U.S. pork growth, and strong RMB against U.S. Dollars will relax import prices.

Electronic notification system will start on March 3, 2007, for all U.S. meat and poultry shipments to China

China's AQSIQ requested 14 foreign embassies in Beijing in August 2006 to start an electronic certificate confirmation system (ECC) on January 1, 2007 for meat imports, in order to crack down smuggling. At FAS Beijing's request, AQSIQ agreed to give two-month grace period, starting on March 3, 2007, and to accept e-mails from the U.S. export facilities. In the first stage, AQSIQ only requests U.S. plants to confirm the FSIS meat export health certificate number and the production date. It may request more information later. All meat products are subject to this system except casing. Many U.S. plants have already started trying to use the system to gain experience. U.S. meat plants should forward accurate information in order to minimize delays in AQSIQ's quarantine inspections.

Pork exports in 2007 forecast to increase by 3 percent to 560,000 MT

FAS Beijing forecasts China's pork exports in 2007 to increase by 3 percent to 560,000 MT (CEW) from the estimated 544,000 MT in 2006. Although China is the world's largest pork producing country, it is not a significant player in pork export markets, and exports only account for 1 percent of China's total pork production.

We forecast China's pork exports will fall 5 percent compared with 2006 due to reduced domestic slaughters, but also due to the stronger RMB against the U.S. Dollar. For the first time, the RMB is now equivalent to the Hong Kong dollar since China and Hong Kong reunited in 1997.

Russia used to be one of China's largest export markets, but after Russia implemented an import quota system in 2003, China's quota fell to only several thousand MT a year due to food safety concerns. This quota will not likely change in 2007.

Another reason for China's decline in exports is the crackdown on illegal exports from China to these countries. Some EU countries reported found illegal meat exported to or transshipped to their country from China. As a result, AQSIQ, MOFCOM, and China's General Customs Administration jointly issued a notification requiring CIQ offices to strengthen export inspection and quarantine to stop this malpractice. Additionally, Japan, a key export market for China, is forecast to reduce imports nearly 2 percent due to its high-level pork stock levels.

China's live swine exports to Hong Kong and Macau are forecast to decline nearly 2 percent to 1.8 million head due to import increases. The two markets account nearly all of China's live cattle exports. This trend will continue in 2007.

There is some positive news for China's pork exports. Hong Kong and Macau, for the first time, opened their fresh and chilled pork market for China in August and November 2006, respectively. China has already exported 17,000 MT to Macau. On October 18, 2006, Singapore reopened its market for boneless pork from China's Jiangsu and Shandong Provinces (previously closed due to FMD concerns).

PS&D table for swine and pork

PSD Table									
Country	China, Peoples Republic of								
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Swine						(1000 HEAD)(PERCENT)		
	2005	Revised		2006	Estimate		2007	Forecast	
	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New
Market Year Begin		01/2005	01/2005		01/2006	01/2006		01/2007	01/2007
Total Beginning Stocks	481891	481891	481891	503348	500324	503348	519052	519052	523752
Sow Beginning Stocks	42900	42200	45000	44900	43800	48930	46600	0	48000
Production (Pig Crop)	685399	675000	685399	720000	700000	735000	750000	0	750000
Intra-EU Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	0	2
Total Imports	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	0	2
Total Supply	1167293	1156894	1167293	1223351	1200327	1238350	1269055	519052	1273754
Intra EU Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	1769	1730	1769	1700	2000	1723	1600	0	1690
Total Exports	1769	1730	1769	1700	2000	1723	1600	0	1690
Sow Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Slaughter	660986	653670	660986	701399	678475	711375	740201	0	740201
Total Slaughter	660986	653670	660986	701399	678475	711375	740201	0	740201
Loss	1190	1170	1190	1200	800	1500	800	0	1000
Ending Inventories	503348	500324	503348	519052	519052	523752	526454	0	530863
Total Distribution	1167293	1156894	1167293	1223351	1200327	1238350	1269055	0	1273754
CY Imp. from U.S.	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	0
CY. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-519052	0
Inventory Balance	21457	18433	21457	15704	18728	20404	7402	-519052	7111
Inventory Change	3	0	3	4	4	4	3	4	4
Sow Change	7	0	7	5	4	9	4	-100	-2
Production Change	8	0	8	5	4	7	4	-100	2
Production to Sows	16	16	15.2	16	16	15	16.1	0	15.6
Trade Balance	1766	1727	1766	1697	1997	1721	1597	0	1688
Slaughter to Inventory	137	136	137	139	136	141	143	0	141

PSD Table									
Country	China, Peoples Republic of								
Commodity	Meat, Swine						(1000 HEAD)(1000 MT CWE)(PERCENT)		
	2005	Revised		2006	Estimate		2007	Forecast	
	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New	USDA Official	Post Estimate	Post Estimate New
Market Year Begin		01/2005	01/2005		01/2006	01/2006		01/2007	01/2007
Slaughter (Reference)	660986	653670	660986	701399	678475	711375	740201	0	740201
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	50106	49685	50106	53000	52000	52261	55800	0	54352
Intra-EU Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	48	50	48	36	48	53	34	0	55
Total Imports	48	50	48	36	48	53	34	0	55
Total Supply	50154	49735	50154	53036	52048	52314	55834	0	54407
Intra EU Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	502	255	502	500	300	544	510	0	560
Total Exports	502	255	502	500	300	544	510	0	560
Human Dom. Consumption	49652	49480	49652	52536	51748	51770	55324	0	53847
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	49652	49480	49652	52536	51748	51770	55324	0	53847
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	50154	49735	50154	53036	52048	52314	55834	0	54407
CY Imp. from U.S.	49	53	49	42	48	43	0	0	45
CY. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inventory Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weights	76	76	76	76	77	73	75	0	73
Production Change	7	0	7	6	5	4	5	-100	4
Import Change	-72	0	-72	-25	-4	10	-6	-100	4
Export Change	-7	0	-7	0	18	8	2	-100	3
Trade Balance	454	205	454	464	252	491	476	0	505
Consumption Change	6	0	6	6	5	4	5	-100	4

Swine and pork trade matrix

China Swine Imports, 2004-2006 (Number of Head)				
	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan - Dec
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	% Change
Origin	2004	2005	2006	2006/2005
World	1,898	3,238	2,489	-23.13
United States	840	1,892	1,038	-45.14
Denmark	578	0	682	0.00
Canada	480	1,032	503	-51.26
United Kingdom	0	0	266	0.00
France	0	314	0	-100.00
HS Code: 010310, 010391, 010392				
Source: WTA/GTA China Statistics				

China Pork Imports, 2004-2006 (Metric Tons)				
	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan - Dec
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	% Change
Origin	2004	2005	2006	2006/2005
World	70,683	31,254	23,911	-23.49
Canada	23,968	19,178	15,773	-17.75
United States	29,585	6,750	2,111	-68.73
Denmark	17,000	4,654	970	-79.16
France	2	577	4279	641.59
Other	128	95	778	718.95
HS Code: 020311, 020312, 020319, 020321, 020322, 020329, 021011 021012, 021019, 160241, 160242 and 160249				
Source: GTA partners trade statistics				

Hong Kong Pork Re-Exports to China, 2004-2006				
(Metric Tons				
	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan - Dec
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	% Change
Origin	2004	2005	2006	2006/2005
The World	59,655	5,997	17,136	185.74
Spain	4,261	657	3,581	445.05
Denmark	11,158	727	2,537	248.97
Canada	9,899	1,589	1,637	3.02
Brazil	3,422	516	729	41.28
Netherlands	5,381	345	690	100.00
France	2,600	411	627	52.55
Germany, Fed Rep	8,068	525	525	0.00
United States	8,800	581	362	-37.69
Other	6,066	646	6,448	898.14
HS Code: 020311, 020312, 020319, 020321, 020322, 020329, 021011 021012, 021019, 160241, 160242 and 160249				

Source: WTA/GTA from Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department

China Live Swine Exports, 2004-2006 (Number of Head)				
	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan - Dec % Change
Destination	2004	2005	2006	2006/2005
World	1,972,911	1,768,772	1,722,540	-2.61
Hong Kong	1,853,771	1,646,605	1,602,222	-2.70
Macau	118,899	120,869	117,382	-2.88
Korea North	75	1,198	2,294	91.49
Other	166	100	642	542.00
HS Code: 010310, 010391, 010392				
Source: GTA China Statistics				

China Pork Exports, 2004-2006 (Metric Tons)				
	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan-Dec Quantity	Jan - Dec % Change
Destination	2004	2005	2006	2006/2005
World	413,321	385,967	418,788	8.50
Hong Kong	116,810	114,375	129,965	13.63
Japan	53,139	68,714	79,133	15.16
Korea North	87,031	61,609	75,364	22.33
Vietnam	23	874	29,322	3254.92
Kyrgyzstan	0	1,023	15,522	1417.30
Philippines	8,197	9,354	13,571	45.08
Singapore	21,319	16,327	12,748	-21.92
Malaysia	14,656	12,249	11,258	-8.09
Korea South	1,887	6,715	8,006	19.23
Russia	70,526	43,275	6,984	-83.86
Albania	3,571	6,224	6,783	8.98
Macau	4,403	5,411	6,242	15.36
Kazakhstan	248	7,686	5,420	-29.48
Indonesia	2,877	3,038	3,032	-0.20
Angola	116	150	2,341	1460.67
Georgia	403	1,446	2,195	51.80
Moldova	11,048	13,512	2,041	-84.89
Ukraine	7,992	5,245	630	-87.99
Other	9,075	8,740	8,231	-5.82
HS Code: 020311, 020312, 020319, 020321, 020322, 020329, 021011 021012, 021019, 160241, 160242 and 160249				
Source: WTA/GTA China Customs Statistics				

Import Tariffs of Hogs and Pork, Effective January-December, 2007					
					Effective
		General	MFN	V.A.T.	Rate
Live swine					(mfn+vat)
0103.1000	Pure-bred breeding Swine	0%	0%	13%	13.0%
0103.9110	Other swine, weighing less than 10 kg	50%	10%	13%	24.3%
0103.9120	Other swine, weighing 10 kg or more, but less than 50 kg	50%	10%	13%	24.3%
0103.9200	Other swine, weighing 50 kg or more	50%	10%	13%	24.3%
Pork					
0203.1110	Pork of sucking pigs, fresh or chilled	70%	20%	13%	35.6%
0203.1190	Other pork, carcass or half carcass, fresh or chilled	70%	20%	13%	35.6%
0203.1200	Hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, with bones in	70%	20%	13%	35.6%
0203.1900	Other pork, fresh or chilled	70%	20%	13%	35.6%
0203.2110	Pork of sucking pig, carcass or half carcass, frozen	70%	12%	13%	26.6%
0203.2190	Other pork, carcass or half carcass, frozen	70%	12%	13%	26.6%
0203.2200	Hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, with bones in	70%	12%	13%	26.6%
0203.2900	Other frozen pork	70%	12%	13%	26.6%
Source: China Customs					

Import Tariffs on Pork Offal Effective January-December, 2007					
					Effective
		General	MFN	V.A.T.	Rate
					(mfn+vat)
0206.3000	Pork offal, fresh or chilled	70%	20.0%	13%	35.6%
0206.4100	Pork liver, frozen	70%	20.0%	13%	35.6%
0206.4900	Other pork offal, frozen	70%	12.0%	13%	26.6%
Source: China Customs					

China Wholesale Pork Prices On Average, 2004-2006

(US$/KG, $1+RMB7.76)				% Change
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2006/05
January	1.40	1.65	1.52	1.72	13.16
February	1.45	1.69	1.43	1.79	25.17
March	1.49	1.63	1.36		
April	1.56	1.60	1.29		
May	1.57	1.59	1.23		
June	1.62	1.59	1.22		
July	1.66	1.61	1.35		
August	1.72	1.59	1.37		
September	1.75	1.55	1.46		
October	1.75	1.48	1.53		
November	1.67	1.42	1.59		
December	1.66	1.43	1.65		

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture

China Wholesale Hog Prices On Average, 2004-2006

(US$/KG, $1+RMB7.76)					% Change
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2006/05
January	0.84	1.05	0.82	1.02	24.39
February	0.88	1.05	0.75	1.08	44.00
March	0.92	0.99	0.71		
April	0.96	0.94	0.57		
May	0.96	0.94	0.68		
June	1.02	0.89	0.65		
July	1.06	0.86	0.75		
August	1.10	0.87	0.84		
September	1.13	0.87	0.94		
October	1.12	0.77	0.94		
November	1.05	0.74	0.98		
December	1.02	0.76	1.00		

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture

China Wholesale Piglet Prices On Average, 2004-2006

(US$/KG, $1+RMB7.76)					% Change
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007/06
January	1.20	1.44	0.97	0.98	1.03
February	1.05	2.05	0.74	0.96	29.73
March	1.13	1.71	1.00		
April	1.71	1.13	0.68		
May	1.21	1.25	0.63		
June	1.31	1.56	0.60		
July	1.48	1.32	0.60		
August	1.51	1.29	0.66		
September	1.66	0.87	0.81		
October	1.59	0.76	0.82		
November	1.50	0.76	0.75		
December	1.52	0.79	0.86		

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture

(End of report)