

2013 Special Order of Business Argentina Foot and Mouth Disease Regionalization Plan

Argentina markets remain closed to U.S. exports of pork, chicken and turkey; yet, in late 2012 Argentina filed a World Trade Organization (WTO) case against the U.S. regarding its ban on Argentina meat products due to Argentina's foot and mouth disease (FMD) problem. FMD is considered by the American Veterinary Medical Association to be the most economically devastating of all livestock diseases. The FMD regionalization plan proposed by Argentina to the WTO is also being requested by such major livestock producing countries as Brazil and Colombia.

An outbreak of FMD in the U.S. has the potential to leave livestock producers in financial ruin as entire livestock herds would need to be culled and international markets would be closed indefinitely. Argentina has shown little concern for rural America by defaulting on loans made by U.S. companies and by opposing U.S. farmers and ranchers in international trade cases.

We call on the Obama administration to defend U.S. farmers and ranchers against Argentina's WTO case. We also call on the Obama administration to pressure Argentina to live up to its commitments within trade and business agreements.

We will work with coalitions and stakeholders to encourage Argentina to address its status as a business and trading partner and play by the rules at the global trade level.