

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2015

Agriculture

Question: 20

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Animal Division

Topic: Importation of fresh pork and beef

Proof Hansard page: 109 (23.02.2015)

Senator CHAIR asked:

CHAIR: Just as a parting gift, I do not suppose Canada or the US have ever grumbled or rumbled about bringing fresh pork or beef into Australia again, have they?

Ms Mellor: I do not think so.

CHAIR: Just let me know if they do.

Ms Mellor: Yes. We have the animal division at 4.45 pm.

Answer:

Several countries, including Canada and the United States, have made market access requests to Australia for fresh beef and pig meat.

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Additional Estimates February 2015

Agriculture

Question: 21

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Animal Division

Topic: BSE content

Proof Hansard page: 140 (23.02.2015)

Senator BACK asked:

Senator BACK: This is a product of the Coopers company, I think, that was suspended because of the BSE content being manufactured in America. Could that product not have been manufactured in a country other than America that does not have the BSE cloud hanging over its head?

Ms Arthy: That is beyond my area of expertise. I will check whether my colleague has the answer.

Answer:

The Coopers Footvax Sheep and Lamb Footrot Vaccine is manufactured using culture media containing material sourced from bovine animals of United States origin.

In February 2009 the Department of Agriculture (the department) refused to issue a new import permit for the vaccine as the manufacturer was no longer able to source bovine material that was compliant with Australia's requirements regarding bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or Mad Cow disease).

If the manufacturer chose to replace the material from US bovine animals with material sourced from non-BSE affected countries, then this import requirement could be met.