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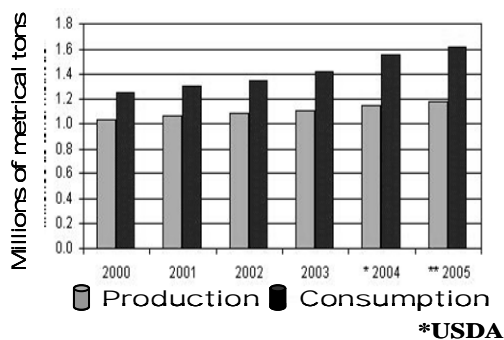
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**Non-Tariff Barriers used as a ban that strikes the swine industry**  
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The globalization has led to increase rules set in trades such as: North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Uruguay Round Agreement in Agriculture (URAA) under what is now the World Trade Organization. The changes in trade policy have led to increasing integration of the animal production. Formal mechanisms for the resolution of disputes, the adjudication of national antidumping and countervailing duty laws, aside of other issues are to be solved, for which NAFTA established a Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures to facilitate technical cooperation among Canada, United States and Mexico in developing, applying and enforcing such measures.

Sanitary barriers are a limiting factor in national and international trade by prohibiting animals, meat, products and byproducts from areas with potentially high-impact animal diseases. The truth is that in Mexico, due to political, economical and social situation, the swine industry has been severely affected, so since the NAFTA in 1994: 40% of swine producers got off the market, production cost has increased 80% and pig meat imports have increased 900% as a result of higher demand of pork consumption that continues to grow.



The Mexican Pork Confederation (CONFEPORC) is working with research

experts and government sanitary authorities so the pig herds get free of diseases, in an effort to offer supreme sanitary quality in meat and pork products to national market, increase the pig production and enhance the number of exports to Asian market reaching other European Countries.

Since pig diseases are seen as non-tariff barriers, the National Eradication program established strict policies which have been successful, so this year 2006, Mexico will be free of CSF and is ongoing towards the same with Aujeszky Disease. Pathogens such as PRRSV, TGEV, *Salmonella*, *Mycoplasma*, etc., are still a threat as is other countries, where biosecurity measures are being applied.

There are other important facts which are considered as non-tariff barriers such as: bioterrorism, additives, toxic chemicals, environmental protection, animal welfare, etc.

The proposal is to integrate a multi-disciplinary research Committee that joins at the International forum meetings along with the Mexican, Canadian and USA representatives to increase measures and policies that benefit our countries as a North American solid block, so the market exports will increase towards Asian and European nations.

**References:**

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