

# INDUSTRY NEWS

Thailand Livestock | Animal Health | Animal Nutrition

## Laos and Cambodia ban meat imports from Thailand

Thailand's two neighboring countries have banned meat imports from Thailand following the anthrax cases in Thailand.

On May 2, Laos' Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry issued a warning and officially suspended the import of beef, pork, horse, and lamb from Thailand to prevent the spread of anthrax.

Authorities have instructed all vehicles entering from Thailand to be sprayed with antibacterial solutions.

On May 6, Cambodia's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries announced a temporary ban on importing livestock and meat products from all border crossings with Thailand. It is also working with relevant agencies at the border crossings to enhance monitoring. (Source: Asian Agribiz, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025)

## Challenges for Thailand's livestock industry amid US high tariff



The recent reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US have significantly impacted global trade, affecting various sectors, including Thailand's livestock and processed food industries. With the announcement of a 36% tariff on Thai products, the government has indicated its intent to negotiate with the US to mitigate the effects.

Industry experts noted that the US is keen to promote its agricultural products in Thailand, particularly beef, pork, soybeans, and feed corn.

However, Pornsil Patchrintanakul, Secretary General of the Federation of Livestock and Aquaculture, has voiced concerns about opening the Thai market to US meats. He emphasized the importance of adhering to local health regulations, particularly regarding the prohibition of lean meat promoters, which means that all imports must comply with Thai laws.

This perspective is shared by Sitthiphan Thankiatphinyo, President of the Swine Raisers Association of Thailand (SRA), who strongly opposed the importation of US offal.





## Uptrend in Thai egg prices on poor weather

Thailand is experiencing a rise in egg prices following the second hike in just two weeks. Manot Chuthapthim, President of the Layer Farmers Association said that unpredictable weather conditions are currently affecting egg production, and egg prices may be entering a rising phase.

He said before these recent hikes, egg prices had been reduced several times and had stabilized at the same rate since October 2024.

The first increase occurred on April 17, followed by another on April 28. The recommended price for mixed-sized eggs at the farm gate is USD 0.107 each, while the production cost is USD 0.098 each. (Source: Asian Agribiz, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025)

“Meat products like pork should not be allowed in, as they don’t meet Thailand’s regulations and could severely threaten local pig farmers, given that US production costs are significantly lower”. According to the SRA president, the production cost for live pigs in Thailand exceeds USD2/kg; in the US, it is around USD 1.17/kg.

Meanwhile, Poj Aramwattananont, Chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC), suggested that Thailand could consider increasing imports from the US in areas that would not adversely affect local farmers, particularly in agricultural products and food.

He pointed out the opportunity to import seafood, such as frozen salmon, scallops, and tuna, from US-flagged vessels to bolster Thailand’s food processing sector. Additionally, he mentioned that importing animal offal for pet food production could help create high-quality export products.

Mr Pornsil pointed out that Thailand is facing a significant shortage of feed corn, making it vital for the country to explore market opportunities for imported corn from the US.

Currently, Thailand requires 9.2 MMT of corn annually, producing 5 MMT domestically and importing 2 MMT from neighboring countries, along with about 1.7 MMT of wheat.

In the first five months of MY 2024/25, Thailand’s corn imports surged by 83% YoY and were 84% higher than the average import levels over the past five years. This rise was primarily due to a rebound in the swine and poultry sectors. Swine production is expected to reach 80 % of the capacity before the ASF outbreak in 2022.

The government’s policy for importing feed corn and alternative raw materials remains unchanged. Between February 1 and August 31, 2025, importers can import duty-free feed corn under the Afta. They must also purchase 3 tonnes of domestic corn for 1 tonne of imported feed wheat. (Source: Asian Agribiz, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025)