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# Importing Live Cattle and Bison From Mexico to the United States

Last Modified:

## Phased Reopening of Southern Border Ports

As of June 30, 2025, APHIS will implement a phased reopening of the southern border ports for the import of live cattle from certain Mexican States. Port-specific information and import eligibility can be found under “Ports of Entry” below. For more information about the phased reopening, see the [USDA press release](#).



APHIS regulates the importation of all ruminants and their germplasm (embryos/oocytes, semen, cloning tissue) to prevent the spread of animal diseases.

**Ruminants** include all animals that chew the cud, such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, deer, antelopes, camels, llamas, and giraffes.

[View Countries From Which Bovines and Their Germplasm May Be Imported](#)

## Requirements

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### Ports of Entry

#### **Southern Border Ports With Facilities Currently Approved by APHIS To Export Bovines to the United States:\***

- Douglas, AZ/Agua Prieta, Sonora—phased reopening to begin July 7, 2025.
- Columbus, NM/Palomas, Chihuahua—phased reopening to begin July 14, 2025.
- Santa Teresa, NM/San Jeronimo, Chihuahua—phased reopening to begin July 21, 2025.

At the above listed ports, cattle eligible for export include:

- Cattle born and raised in the Mexican States of Sonora or Chihuahua; **or**
- Cattle that are treated according to the [New World screwworm \(NWS\) protocol](#) when entering these states, prior to implementation of pre-export activities for subsequent export to the United States.

#### **Additional ports included in the phased reopening, pending facility approval and/or implementation of specific eligibility requirements:**

- Del Rio, TX/Acuña, Coahuila—phased reopening to begin August 18, 2025.
- Laredo, TX/Colombia Bridge, Nuevo Leon—phased reopening to begin September 15, 2025.

## Air/Ocean

- Newburg, NY
- Miami, FL
- Los Angeles, CA

\*APHIS continues to inspect port facilities for compliance under the New World screwworm protocol. Additional ports of entry will be included as they are approved.

**For list of special/limited ports of entry, see [9 CFR 93.403](#) .**

## Live Domestic Cattle and Bison

### **Protocols for the Import of Feeder Cattle, Breeding Cattle, and Cattle for Immediate Slaughter From Mexico to the United States; No Permit Is Required**

- [Protocol for the Import of Sexually Intact \(Breeder\) Bovines From Mexico into the United States](#) (341.58 KB)
- [Model Health Certificate: Breeding Cattle and Bison From Mexico](#) (343.46 KB)
- [Protocol for the Import of Steers and Spayed Heifers Cattle and Bison \(Feeders\) From Mexico](#) (376.49 KB)
- [Model Health Certificate: Feeder Cattle and Bison From Mexico](#) (340.67 KB)
- [Model Health Certificate: Slaughter Cattle and Bison From Mexico](#) (73.92 KB)
- [Transit Canadian Cattle and Bison to Mexico](#) (39.39 KB)
  - [Questions and Answers: Transit Canadian Cattle and Bison to Mexico](#) (31.37 KB)

### **Bovine Tuberculosis Requirements for Cattle From Mexico**

- [VS Bulletin 2023.1: Bovine Tuberculosis Testing Requirements for Cattle Imported to the United States From Mexico](#) (273.92 KB)

### **New World Screwworm Requirements for Cattle and Bison From Mexico**

- [APHIS-SENASICA New World Screwworm Protocol for the Importation of Ruminants From Mexico to the United States](#) (394.1 KB)
- [New World Screwworm Inspection and Treatment Certificate for Cattle Exported to the United States](#) (114.9 KB)
- [Addendum to the Zoosanitary Export Certificate of Official Export Inspection and Freedom From New World Screwworm for Cattle Exported to the United States](#) (81.57 KB)
- [New World Screwworm Export Health Certificate Addendum for the Import of Feeder Cattle From the Mexican States of Chihuahua and Sonora into the United States](#)

## Additional Import Guidance

- [APHIS Minimum Criteria for Approval and Supervision of Export Gathering Centers in Mexico](#) (335.39 KB)
- [VSG 13416.2: Spayed Heifers From Mexico](#) (1.21 MB)
- [VSG 13414.2: Branding Requirements for Imported Mexican Bovines](#) (275.98 KB) (Cattle/Bison)

## Bovine Embryos

Bovine embryos are **not** permitted to be imported from Mexico at this time.

## Bovine Semen

Bovine semen is **not** permitted to be imported from Mexico at this time.

## What You Need To Know

- U.S. transits are classified as shipments presented to a U.S. port of entry for conveyance purposes to then be transported to a destination country shortly after.
  - [Notice Regarding APHIS Live Animal Import and Third-Country Import Transit Permits](#) (272.29 KB)

- Please note that any animals and their germplasm transiting the United States must not transit countries with questionable disease statuses prior to reaching a U.S. port of entry.
- All transits require a contingency plan. Submit your contingency plan with your permit application ([VS 17-129](#) (211.74 KB)) to [laipermits@usda.gov](mailto:laipermits@usda.gov). To submit an import permit electronically, visit [APHIS eFile](#).
- If you are applying to import live animals, semen, and embryos, you may submit applications by email to [laipermits@usda.gov](mailto:laipermits@usda.gov).

## Contact Us

### [Download contacts](#)

#### Live Animal Imports

For questions about import permits or permit applications:

#### Live Animal Import Permit Team

Email: [laipermits@usda.gov](mailto:laipermits@usda.gov)

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

For general questions related to the import of a live animal:

#### Live Animal Import and Export

Email: [laie@usda.gov](mailto:laie@usda.gov)

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

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