

Net traded value is the difference between the exports and imports expressed in dollars. Using value (dollars) allows aggregation across the whole range of products sold across international borders. In both the pork and beef sectors the U.S. exports and imports products. Here we provide a broad review of 2016 trade across each industry (pork and beef) which includes meat, as well as non-meat items including: variety meats; tallows and greases; and live animals. The data are from the USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service. Aggregations of the data were done by the Livestock Marketing Information Center staff.

In terms of U.S. pork exports, the largest value contributor (80% of total sector sales in 2016) was pork, followed by variety meats (16%). Dollar wise, 2016's meat (pork and sausage) exports were up \$163 million (plus 3.4%), but at \$4.94 billion remained well below 2014's record high of \$5.73 billion. Pork sector variety meat exports surged during 2016 (up \$213 million or 27.0% year-over-year), setting an all-time high of \$999 million. Total sector export value in 2016 was just over \$6.20 billion, up \$405 million (7.00%) year-over-year. Still, that was well below 2014's sales.

On the import side, 2016 U.S. purchases were less than in 2015. Imports of meat represented 72% of total value in 2016, while live animals (feeder pigs and slaughter hogs) represented 16%. In 2016, the value of sector imports by the U.S. totaled \$1.94 billion, slipping 2.7% year-over-year.

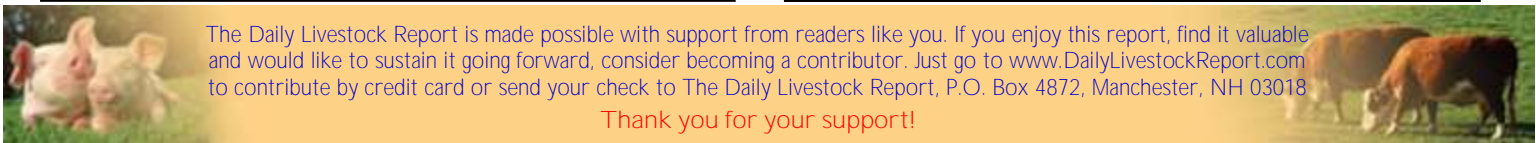
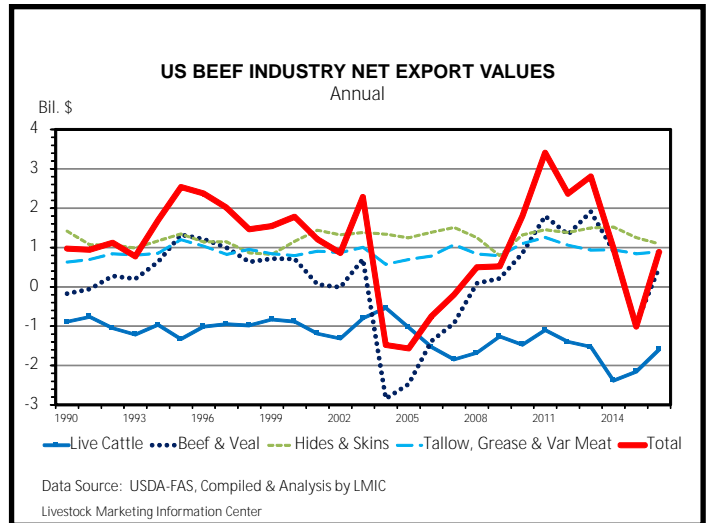
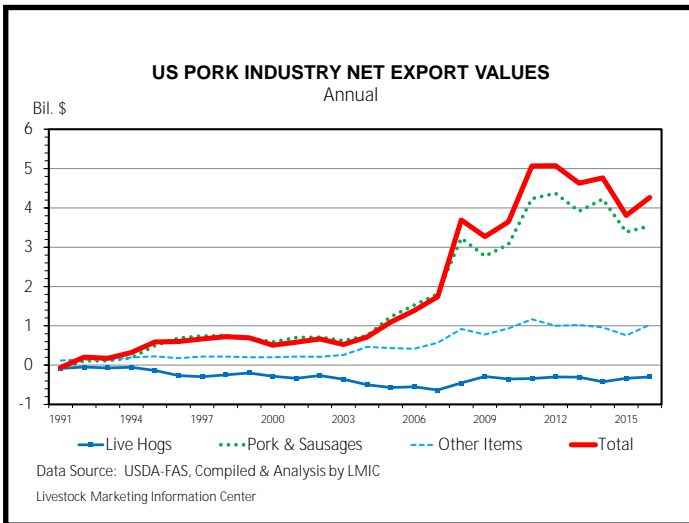
Since 1992, the U.S. pork sector has been a net exporter. That at value has more than tripled since 2005. In 2016, the net export value was \$4.27 billion, up \$459 million for the year, or rising

12.0%. The record level was just over \$5.0 billion, which was achieved in both 2011 and 2012.

Turning to the beef sector, the largest contributor to export value (69% of total sector sales in 2016) was beef and veal. Value wise, beef and veal exports in 2016 were essentially unchanged from 2015's level. It is critical to note that U.S. beef tonnage exported during 2016 increased 13% year-over-year, but the prices at which sales were made were below 2015's. The next largest contributors to export value were hides and skins (14% total value), then variety meats (13%). Total sector exports were \$7.85 billion, down 1.6% (\$132 million) from 2015's.

Year-over-year, the change in U.S. beef imports was dramatic as both tonnage and prices were lower. In 2016, beef sector imports by the U.S. fell by over \$2.03 billion from 2015's. That decline was led by a drop in the value of beef and veal imports of \$1.43 billion compared to 2015's. In 2016, the value of cattle imported by the U.S. declined by \$582 million year-over-year. The two largest categories of imports are beef and veal (71% of total beef sector imported products) and live cattle (24%).

After a very difficult 2015, on a dollar basis, the U.S. beef industry returned to being a net exporter in 2016. The difference between beef sector exports versus imports was positive in 2016, making the U.S. a net exporter on a value basis for the year. Net exports totaled \$882 million, a dramatic change from the negative posted in 2015 (-\$1.01 billion). Still, 2016 net exports remained well below the level recorded in the years from 2010 through 2014.



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