Yesterday, USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) released trade data on a carcass weight basis for the month of June. The August 5th DLR discussed weekly beef imports. As a follow-up, monthly beef imports in June were 15.3% higher than last year at 308.7 million pounds. June beef imports were the highest monthly volume since August 2015 (312.7 million pounds). Shipments were up from Canada (4.2%) and Mexico (58.0%) which more than offset lower volumes from Australia (-9.0%) and New Zealand (-5.0%).

Beef exports continue to slide down 33.0% to 183.3 million pounds and down 31.4% from this year’s peak of 267.1 million pounds in March. Shipments to most major destinations were down for the month of June. Japan and South Korea dropped 20.7% and 39.0% from last year, respectively, to 58.0 and 41.2 million pounds. Exports to Hong Kong and Taiwan were 15.7 and 12.9 million pounds, respectively, both down 11.2% and 37.2%. Shipments to China nearly doubled from a year ago at 5.2 million pounds (up 90.3%), but the market only accounted for 2.8% of total beef exports for the month. Mexico was down sharply by 61.0% to 13.4 million pounds while Canada was down marginally by 0.2% to 22.5 million pounds.

Pork exports reached their lowest level for the year at 515.3 million pounds, but this is still 3.3% higher than the same month last year. China continues to be the primary destination for U.S. pork exports at 170.3 million pounds (up 146.9%) accounting for a third (33.0%) of the shipments in June. Mexico was the number two destination at 109.5 million pounds, down 18.2%. Both Japan and South Korea were down 23.2% and 20.1%, respectively, to 75.2 and 62.5 million pounds, respectively, down for the month of June. Japan and South Korea dropped 22.5 million pounds. Shipments to most major destinations were lower volumes from Australia (5.0%).

US Beed and Veal Exports

US Broiler Exports

Broiler exports were 551.1 million pounds in June, down 1.1% from a year ago and the lowest month so far for 2020. Mexico was the top destination at 108.8 million pounds shipped, down 6.0%. China has emerged as a top destination for U.S. broiler meat exports reaching 65.0 million pounds for the month while shipments to Canada were down 8.8% to 24.3 million pounds. Turkey exports dropped 27.7% to 37.6 million pounds on lower shipments to Mexico, the top destination, which were 27.1 million pounds, down 14.5% from 2019.

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