

RED ROCK FEEDING CO.

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President

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Editor, Beef Magazine
Sarah Muirhead
Sarah.muirhead@farmprogress.com

RE: Arizona – Mexico Livestock Port Closures

Dear Ms. Muirhead,

As the owner of Red Rock Feeding Co., a cattle feedyard located in Red Rock, Arizona that has been in business since 1965 when my father started this business, we have grown to a 26,000 head capacity but due to this extended closure we are down to nearly half of that.

My purpose for this letter is to express my EXTREME concern for the prolonged closure of the Arizona – Mexico ports to live cattle importation/exportation. These closures began November 2024 for the concern of the spread of the New World Screwworms. Over the 18 + months that the agriculture industry has been dealing with this issue and have been experiencing economic hardship beyond some that the generation before us have not. These port closures not only affect us here in Arizona, our neighbors to the south in Mexico but also from California to Oklahoma resulting in such devastating economic loss causing some businesses to close their operations.

The policy that the USDA is presenting is not one that is a sound policy or supportive to our current crisis on the Arizona – Mexico regions. The protocols that have been mandated and followed by both the Mexican and USDA veterinarians have shown that there are no safety concerns for our Sonoran cattle and no science-based reasons to continue these closures. We don't need "One fits all Policies" we need policies that are supportive for the affected regions.

I along with many other cattle importers and producers and supporting industry businesses request immediate and concise support from USDA to regionalize livestock ports and to reopen the Sonoran ports.

Sincerely,



Dave Stevenson
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