



**Cattlemex and T4 Ranch
1124 Highway 82
Nogales, Arizona 85621**

March 18, 2026

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

RE: Economic Impact of USDA Policy and Arizona-Mexico Livestock Port Closures

Dear Ms. Muirhead,

As part of a family-owned Arizona business that imports and produces Mexican cattle, I am reaching out to you regarding the USDA's blanket "New World Screwworm" policy. This policy has resulted in the extended closure of U.S.-Mexico ports to cattle imports from Arizona to Texas. Continued closure of ports in Arizona is a decision that is not supported by either science or sound policy.

The prolonged closure of Arizona-Mexico livestock ports is devastating our operations and the broader agricultural industry. The impact extends far beyond our state, affecting businesses and communities from California to Oklahoma and creating an unnecessary beef market crisis for U.S. consumers. Locally, this federal policy is crippling Arizona businesses tied to Mexican cattle imports, reducing the tax base in Nogales and Douglas, and hurting ancillary industries. **Financial ruin should not be the reward for regulatory compliance.**

I, along with other importers and producers of Mexican cattle and supporting industries, request USDA to regional livestock ports. I would not make this request if I was not 100% certain of the safety of Sonoran cattle.

Because we have not received clear guidance or communication from USDA, I am requesting your support advocating for this sector of the livestock industry.

Respectfully,

Jourdan Bell
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