



Pork Roast at Sunday Dinner?

U.S. pork mega-producers are trying to dominate the industry by keeping out imported pigs and closing down U.S. independent farms.

On March 5, 2004, a group of American pork producers filed antidumping and countervailing petitions with the U.S. Department of Commerce, claiming that Canadian pork producers are selling live swine at prices below the cost of production and benefiting from government subsidies. These petitions claim that low-priced Canadian swine is hurting their sales and causing the loss of U.S. jobs.

These petitions are ridiculous for two reasons:

First, Canadian hog producers play a vital role in the North American swine industry. The U.S. pork industry has become highly concentrated. To compete against mega-producers, hundreds of American family farmers import Canadian piglets and raise them for slaughter in the U.S. Tariffs will threaten these farmers and concentrate more market control in the hands of a few huge companies. This is bad news for consumers.

Second, farm support payments are a way of life in both Canada and the United States. On August 17, the U.S. Dept of Commerce issued a preliminary ruling stating that Canada is **not** providing illegal subsidies for pig exports-- that Canadian swine industry farm support payments comply with U.S. law and international trade rules.

Tariffs are nothing but border taxes designed to limit competition, and penalize American consumers. Competitively priced imports of Canadian hogs benefit U.S. consumers greatly. Imposing punitive duties is simply *not in the interest of American consumers*. **The proposed antidumping duty of 5 to 20% on imports of live Canadian swine is thinly disguised protectionism, which contradicts the spirit of free markets and American capitalism.**

For this reason Consumers for World Trade feels that:

Congress should support free trade principles and urge the ITC to reject new tariffs on Canadian swine imports.



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