



Nourishing Today
Sustaining Tomorrow

Lean Trimmings

The official newsletter
of the Meat Institute

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TOP STORY

Annual Meat Conference Commences; 20 Years of Power of Meat Celebrated.

[The Annual Meat Conference \(AMC\)](#) kicked off today in Orlando, Florida, bringing together thousands of professionals across the animal protein industry to gather industry insights, attend educational workshops, exhibit products, network, and more. Today at the 2025 AMC, the Meat Institute and FMI—the Food Industry Association unveiled the 20th anniversary of the Power of Meat report, which has guided the industry with key insights on consumer trends and the evolving meat market for two decades. From the rise of convenience-driven cooking methods like air fryers to the growing influence of Gen Z shoppers prioritizing sustainability and health, the Power of Meat has been at the forefront of shaping the meat industry. The report is now available for purchase as well as a Top 10 fact sheet and infographic describing the biggest findings of this year's report. Access them below. Learn more about AMC on [its website>>](#)

[Infographic](#)

[Product: The Power of Meat 2025: FMI](#)

[Top 10 Findings](#)

REGULATORY AFFAIRS

FDA Postpones Implementation of Traceability Rule.

Last Thursday, FDA [announced](#) its intention to delay the compliance date for the Food Traceability Rule by 30 months, until **July 2028**. FDA will conduct rulemaking to formally extend the compliance date at a later time. The Food Traceability Rule establishes additional recordkeeping requirements for certain foods that have been identified as high risk, including the sharing of key information throughout the food supply chain. FDA's announcement provides additional time for the food industry to establish comprehensive traceability systems prior to the new compliance date. The original compliance date was set for January 2026. [Read more about the Rule>>](#)

Meat Institute Applauds USDA's Decision to Extend Waivers for Efficient Line Speeds.

The Meat Institute said last week that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins acted swiftly to [extend waivers](#) allowing pork and poultry processors to operate at higher line speeds allowing for efficiency and providing certainty to the entire meat and poultry supply chain. [An FSIS-contracted study](#) with the University of California-San Francisco found no statistically significant association between line speeds and increased worker safety risk. The Meat Institute's statement, including background on pork slaughter line speeds, [is available here>>](#)

AMS Updates Master Solicitation for Domestic Programs Commodity Procurements.

The Agricultural Marketing Service has updated the [Master Solicitation for Domestic Programs Commodity Procurements](#). The updates address contract clauses and provisions and can be found on page 2 and 3 of the document.

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

CDC Study Estimates 10 Million Foodborne Illnesses in the U.S. in 2019.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [published a study](#) that found approximately 10 million foodborne illnesses occurred in the United States in 2019. The most common pathogens were norovirus, *Salmonella*, and *Campylobacter*, with norovirus accounting for the highest number of cases. *Salmonella* infections led to the most deaths, with 238 fatalities. The study found that these illnesses resulted in about 53,300 hospitalizations. Researchers emphasized in the study that while food safety measures have improved, foodborne pathogens continue to pose a public health concern. [Read more>>](#)

FSIS Updates Import Presented Refused and Import Refusal Reason Datasets.

Last week, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) updated the Import Presented Refused and Import Refusal Reason datasets on the [Import and Export Data page](#). The Import Presented Refused dataset will include lot-level information for import volume along with import refusal data at the lot-level; the Import Refusal Reason is provided as a secondary dataset, providing each refusal reason as its own row to facilitate analysis.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

EU Delays First Wave of Retaliatory Tariffs.

The European Union will delay imposing its first wave of retaliatory tariffs until sometime in April to allow for more time to negotiate a deal with the United States. President Trump ended the EU's exemption for U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs earlier this month via an executive order that also increased the duties applied to aluminum imports. The EU responded by announcing it would reimpose suspended duties at the end of the month on a slate of U.S. products, including 50% duties on whiskey, and tariffs on motorcycles, jeans and peanut butter. A second wave of tariffs covering a larger list of products – including a slew of farm products like poultry, beef, dairy, nuts, eggs, sugar and vegetables – is slated to come into effect in mid-April after the Commission consults with member states. But EU trade spokesperson Olof Gill said in a statement that the bloc has postponed the first wave of tariffs and would now aim to have both sets of retaliatory duties come into effect in mid-April.

FSIS to Enhance PHIS Export Module.

On March 31, 2025, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) plans to deploy three key enhancements to the Public Health Information System (PHIS) Export module to make the 9060-export application process more efficient for export applicants.

- PHIS will hold the applicant's search results on the 9060-application list while the applicant opens and closes an individual 9060-application record

- The Key Word Search box on the 9060-application list will be split into the two search boxes to reduce the amount of data PHIS consumes
- PHIS will allow the applicant to edit more data fields in an original 9060-application

See more details and the reasoning for these enhancements in FSIS's [Constituent's Update](#).

Colombia Stops Allowing Changes on Details for Import Permits.

Starting in March 2025, Colombian quarantine officials have stopped allowing updates to many details on import permits and are no longer allowing any changes after the products have left port. Previously, most agents permitted modifications to be made to fields such as the export facility, after payment of a small fine. This change in enforcement measures has resulted in many detained and rejected shipments. USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) published a [Global Agricultural Information Report \(GAIN\) with more details>>](#)

Interim Agreement Extended for U.S. Beef Exports to Dubai.

In late December, an interim agreement allowed U.S. beef shipments to Dubai (including pipeline product) to clear for a period of 90 days – through March 20, 2025. The Dubai Municipality Authority has confirmed that this interim agreement has now been extended to June 20, 2025. The June 20 cutoff date applies to the date on which the halal certificate is issued, not the date when the shipment arrives at port. Each shipment must be accompanied by a halal certificate.

FSIS Signs eCERT MOU with Korea.

On March 12, 2025, FSIS Administrator Dr. Denise Eblen signed an electronic shipment certification (eCert) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with her counterpart from Korea. The signing commemorated the ongoing bilateral food safety cooperation on eCert of meat and poultry products between FSIS and the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety. eCert is the secure, government-to-government exchange of electronic certification data. The MOU recognizes the food safety eCert activities that FSIS and Korea have completed and establishes a foundation for additional efforts to advance an eCert exchange in the future. The signing was followed by a meeting between FSIS and Korea technical experts to progress development and implementation of eCert.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Congress Works Toward Finalizing Budget; Goal Set for Week of April 7.

U.S. House and Senate lawmakers returned to Washington on Monday as talks continue among GOP leadership to finalize a budget blueprint in the weeks ahead. Key decisions still need to be made to advance President Trump's top legislative priority of passing a bill to permanently extend the 2017 tax cuts and enhance energy, defense and border policies. Today, [House GOP leadership issued a press release](#) calling on the Senate to take up the House budget resolution in order to enact President Trump's full agenda as quickly as possible. House Speaker Mike Johnson is calling to finalize a budget plan with the Senate and secure its approval in the House by the week of April 7. Both the House and Senate have scheduled a two-week recess around the Easter and Passover holidays, which fall in mid-April.

INDUSTRY EVENTS AND EDUCATION

Do you have suggestions for educational content for upcoming Meat Institute Events? [Click here to submit your idea!](#)

In-Person

Environment, Labor & Safety+ Conference | April 21 – 23, 2025

Charlotte, North Carolina

The Environment, Labor & Safety+ Conference (ELS+) is a platform designed for safety, environmental compliance, and HR professionals in the meat industry to stay ahead of emerging trends and challenges. Our experts focus on practical and applicable insights, sharing essential information to help keep your workforce and facilities safe, engaged, and up to date. This community provides a secure environment where you can discuss challenges and learn from peers about what strategies are effective and which ones aren't. Most importantly, you will leave equipped with tools and talking points to effectively communicate your valuable ideas back at your plant. [Learn More>>](#)

The [Environmental Committee](#) and [Worker Safety Committee](#) will hold meetings at the ELS+ Conference open to all attendees. Register for these committee meetings with the links above.

Animal Care & Handling Conference | May 13 – 14, 2025

Denver, Colorado

The Animal Care & Handling Conference is the only event dedicated to advancing animal welfare and handling practices, particularly within the meat industry's slaughter sector. This unique gathering brings together industry leaders, academics, and practitioners, bridging academic research and real-world application. The event encourages open dialogue and shares practical, actionable solutions designed for those working in slaughter operations. Attendees will gain valuable insights, network with peers, and leave equipped with strategies to enhance animal care and handling in their daily practices. [Register>>](#)

Webinars

The Evolution of Foreign Material Inspection: From Reactive to Proactive | April 10 at 2 p.m. ET

Sponsored by [FlexXray](#)

Foreign material contamination has emerged as a critical concern for food safety professionals, prompting the development of enhanced technologies, tools and strategies for FSQA teams to mitigate recall risks. Join us for this webinar as we explore:

- A breakdown of the state of foreign material detection technology
- The stages of foreign material maturity and how to tell where your company sits

- What proactive foreign material management entails - from preventive maintenance to supplier monitoring and routine surveillance.

EMERGING LEADER SPOTLIGHT



Brooke Kitting, Seaboard Foods

COMMITTEE NEWS

A list of upcoming Meat Institute committee activities is provided below:

- The Meat Institute’s **Animal Welfare Committee** will hold its next virtual meeting on Wednesday, March 28, at 12 p.m. ET. Contact [Casey Gallimore](#) to participate.
- The Meat Institute’s **Communication and Marketing Committee** will hold its next virtual meeting on Tuesday, April 1, at 2 p.m. ET. Contact [Casey Kammerle](#) to participate.
- The Meat Institute’s **Health and Wellness Advisory Committee** will hold its next virtual meeting on Wednesday, April 16, at 2 p.m. ET. Contact [Susan Backus](#) to participate.

The [Environmental Committee](#) and [Worker Safety Committee](#) will hold meetings at the [ELS+ Conference](#) open to all attendees. Register for these committee meetings with the links above.

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENTS

Meat Institute Weekly Market Report Released. Last week’s market report, prepared by Uner Barry by Expana, [is now available](#). According to the report, the weekly Federally Inspected Slaughter figure stood at 560,000 head of cattle, down 24,000 from the previous week. Total pork production was estimated to be 524.1 million pounds, 3.4% lower than the previous week.

Total Red Meat Production Figures Released. USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) released figures for total red meat production for the week ending March 22, 2025. An overview of the data is presented below and is available [here](#).