

**[DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 1, s. 1994,
February 11, 1994]**

**REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE FEEDER CATTLE IMPORTATION
BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture, after a thorough review and evaluation of the cattle industry, recognizes the urgent need to rebuild the cattle population of the entire country;

WHEREAS, this is shown by the negative average annual growth rate of 1.1% of the national herd population for the period from 1980 - 1992. Further that this is evidenced by the dearth in the supply of feeder cattle and by the uncontrolled slaughter of animals which are still fit for breeding;

WHEREAS, allowing the importation of live cattle for fattening by the private sector will fill up the short supply of feeder cattle as a temporary expedient;

WHEREAS, in addition to feeder cattle, the continued introduction of breeding females from non-domestic sources is also encouraged to replenish/augment the local breeder base;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBERTO S. SEBASTIAN, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby issue the following set of guidelines in order to effect a rational, equitable and sound implementation of the cattle importation program:

SECTION 1. Qualified Importers - Only those with the necessary resources, equipment and facilities can participate in the program. They could either be:

1. Established feedlot operators.
2. Bonafide cattle ranchers, and small holder farmers/backyard raisers who may organize themselves into a consortium/cooperative and are capable of financing the importation and related needs of the program.
3. Any registered organization or cooperative who, in support of the DA's livelihood projects in the rural areas, shall farm out the imported animals to contract growers/participating farmers.

SECTION 2. Specifications for Animals - (1) No single imported animal should weigh over 330 kilograms.

2. Animals are to undergo a feeding and finishing period of at least ninety (90) days.
3. Effective March 1, 1994, each feeder cattle importer shall include 10%

breeding heifers in his importation. This means that for every ten (10) animals imported, nine (9) will be feeders and one (1) will be pregnant breeding heifer. This ratio of feeder-breeder will be reviewed by the Livestock Development Council (LDC) every six (6) months.

4. The animals must have a clean bill of health certified by a competent authority from an accredited country of origin, and shall comply with all existing regulations related to health as required by the Bureau of Animal Industry on the importation of live animals.

5. The animals that arrive in the country shall undergo a quarantine period of at least thirty (30) days. After prior inspection and the place is certified as appropriate by the Veterinary Quarantine Officer, quarantine may be allowed in the importer's area preferably in place separate from the rest of the herd. The Veterinary Quarantine Officer will oversee and then certify that such was effected.

SECTION 3. Mechanics of Importation

1. Accreditation of Feedlots/Ranches

- a. Only accredited feedlots/ranches can import and handle feeder cattle under this program. For this purpose, prospective importers/participants of the program shall apply for accreditation to the Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary for Livestock through the DA Livestock Imports Evaluation Group (DA-LIEG).

In case of livestock contract growers, their respective contracted farms shall also be subject to accreditation.

Application for accreditation of feedlot/ranch must be submitted at least three months before the scheduled arrival of animals to be imported.

- b. The DA-LIEG shall inspect the feedlot of the prospective importers/operators to determine:

- b.1 Technical and financial capability to undertake the importation.

- b.2 Availability and sufficiency of feeds/pasture grasses to support the imported and other stock of the feedlot operator.

- b.3 Adequacy of feedlot facilities e.g. floor space, catching corrals, holding pens, feeding and watering troughs, with access to livestock scales, etc.

- b.4 For range fattening operation, adequacy of facilities e.g. night corral, water supply, etc..

- b.5 Conformity to environmental rules and regulations in the

area where the feedlot/ranch is located. For this purpose, a Certificate of Environmental Clearance issued by the concerned agency in the municipality is necessary.

b.6 Compliance with all municipal ordinances/requirements for business operations.

c. If the feedlot/ranch meets all the required criteria, the DA-LIEG shall recommend the feedlot's accreditation to the Assistant Secretary for Livestock of the DA.

d. A Certificate of Accreditation shall then be issued by the DA, a copy of which shall be furnished the BAI.

e. Quarterly inspection of these feedlots will be done by DA-LIEG.

2. Issuance of Import Permits

a. Only accredited feedlots/ranches can apply for import permits.

Application for import permits are to be made at least two months before the expected arrival of the imported animals.

b. Owners of accredited feedlots/ranches or their authorized representative shall file their request to import animals with the BAI. The BAI will process the applications and those that meet the criteria shall be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary for Livestock.

c. The Assistant Secretary's office will confirm the status and performance of the individual applicants and document the possible impact of the importation on the over-all Livestock Development Program.

The application shall then be endorsed to the Secretary or his authorized representative for approval.

d. Copies of the approved import permits are distributed as follows:

1. Original - Importer's bank
2. Duplicate - Bureau of Customs
3. Triplicate - Importer
4. Quadruplicate - BAI