

What is food safety in the dairy industry – market access requirements

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Overview

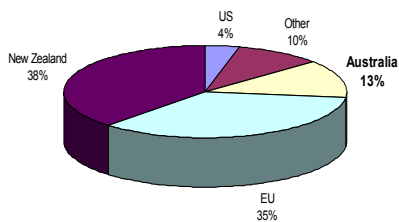
- The Australian export dairy industry
- Two role(s) of governments in facilitating food trade
 - International agreements and standard setting bodies
 - Domestic Standards and regulations harmonised with International Standards
- How Australian governments facilitate dairy exports



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World dairy exports 2003

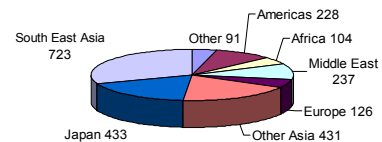


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Australian dairy exports by region 2003-04 (\$ A million)

Total: \$A2.4 billion



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How can governments help export food industries (within the WTO framework)

1. Actively participate in the international standards development
2. Implement flexible regulations based on international standards



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Governments' help for export food industries

1. Active participation in the international standards development

- WTO framework
 - SPS & TBT Agreements
 - Standard setting bodies:
 - Codex, OIE, IPPC
- Codex standards
 - Based on science
 - Not able to be used as barriers to trade



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Current Codex issues important for the international dairy trade

- CCFICS
 - traceability, equivalence
- CCFH
 - Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk & Milk Products
- CCMMP
 - Dairy product standards, Parmesan (GIs)



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Traceability - Definition

- Developed by CCGP in April 2004
- Adopted by Commission in June/July 2004
- Traceability / product tracing: the ability to follow the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution



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Traceability - Concerns raised

- Consistent with WTO obligations
- Limits of application
 - one step forward & one step back
 - small scale and remote locations
 - relevant steps in food chain
- Justified on case by case
 - with priority for food safety risk management



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Equivalence: SPS and Codex

- SPS Agreement (Article 4) obliges members to accept equivalent measures
- Codex (CCFICS) has developed guidelines for how judgement of equivalence of SPS measures can be achieved



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Advantages of reaching equivalence judgments:

- maximising food safety outcomes & improvements in public health for a given level of resource input
 - for both exporting and importing countries;
- facilitating the innovative, risk-based approach to food control systems / sanitary measures;
- decreasing reliance on routine end-product testing (eg at port of entry), which may be of limited effectiveness in protecting public health;
- promoting harmonised food standards in different countries;
- achieving comprehensive bilateral or multilateral agreements on the equivalence of overall food control systems in different countries



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Governments' help for export food industries

2. Implement flexible regulations based on international standards

Australian regulation of the dairy industry:

- Reflects international standards
- Commonwealth and States' governments involved
- Commonwealth role includes export certification
 - working closely with States' authorities
- "Paddock to plate" - entire chain covered



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Aims of the Australian regulation of the export dairy industry

- To facilitate "safe" products
- To provide sound basis for export certification
 - By the Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service
- To enable the uptake of technology and encourage innovation
 - Flexible
 - Non prescriptive
- To be consumer / customer driven
 - not supplier driven



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Elements of the export dairy food safety system

- Strong legislation
 - both States & Commonwealth
- Dairy farm licensing by State authorities
- Milk distribution monitored by State authorities
- Processing establishment registration by AQIS
- HACCP mandatory at processing establishments
- Establishment inspection/auditing
- Water testing at processing establishments
- Use of accredited laboratories
 - for water and product testing for certification
- AMRA – Australian Milk Residue Analysis Survey
- Export certification by AQIS



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Summary

- The Australian dairy industry is a major exporter
- Australian governments support the industry through active participation in international standard development for a
 - Codex is important for setting standards for international trade
- Australian governments support the industry through flexible regulations based on international standards
 - Export certification provided by AQIS, based on the paddock to plate legislation and underpinning systems



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And, of course, we support the International Dairy Federation and participate in its activities



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THANK YOU

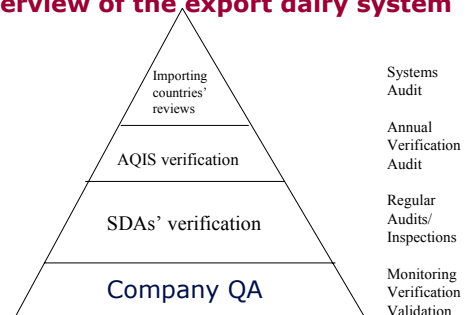
QUESTIONS?



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Overview of the export dairy system



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