Canada’s Changing International Trade Landscape
Opportunities, Threats and Forgone Opportunities for
the Beef Industry

Author: Kathryn Forrester
Co-Authors: William A. Kerr, Distinguished Professor

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Saskatchewan

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Canada’s Changing International Trade Landscape- Opportunities, Threats and Forgone Opportunities for the Beef Industry

Kathryn Forrester, MSc Candidate, Supervisor: William A. Kerr, PhD, Distinguished Professor
Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Saskatchewan

Introduction
Canada’s beef industry competes internationally with other large beef producing countries. Global trade is important for Canada as exports account for 45% of production, with most of these exports headed to the U.S.

This trade landscape under which the beef industry must operate may change in important ways in the near future. The Trans Pacific Partnership agreement provided additional opportunities for the beef industry. However, those opportunities may now be forgone in the wake of the recent US election.

The future of the TPP is currently undecided, however both Japan and the U.S. must join, or it else it cannot happen. Canada’s beef industry experiences tariff-free access to the U.S. under NAFTA, which, during the US election, was threatened by the President-Elect to be renegotiated or to “tear it up.” There are many different ways that the trade landscape could change given the numerous ongoing trade agreements and political events.

This thesis provides an analysis of the various possible effects on Canadian beef trade based on a variety of trade agreement outcome scenarios.

Results
Large beef exporting countries would benefit from the full implementation of the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement due to the improved market access created by trade liberalisation. It is most disturbing when large producing countries do not enter the agreement.

Possible Global Influences
- The US election has created uncertainty in future trade with the U.S.
- Australia, United States and Brazil are the three biggest exporters of beef globally. Australia has a trade agreement with Japan, a highly lucrative opportunity market. The lack of preferential access is a large forgone opportunity for other beef exporters, including Canada.
- Other trade agreements are currently and constantly being negotiated.
- Canada needs to be competitive and up to date so they don’t lose major opportunities.
- CANCER Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and 10 ASEAN nations- Association of South-East Asian Nations) is ongoing and accounts for almost 30% of global GDP- sound familiar?