

Uruguay beef and sheepmeat Industry

Prepared by National Meat Institute (INAC), September 2020.

In 2019, Uruguay's beef export reached **20% of the country's total goods exports**. Adding other meats and by-products, total exports add up to **USD 2.2 billion**, which is 25% of total.

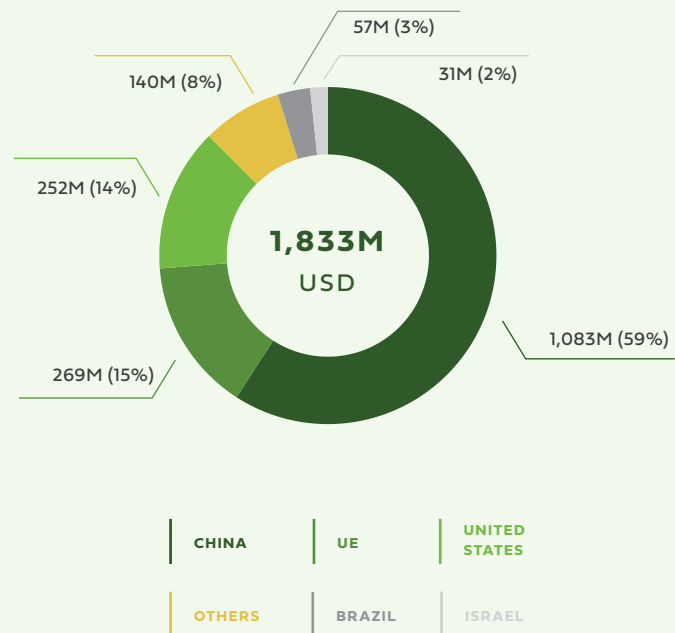
Herd facts and figures

- Around 48,700 farms are involved in the cattle industry. More than half are family farms.
- There were 12.1 million head of cattle and 6.4 million head of sheep in our country.
- This represents more than 3 cattle per capita.
- Around 92% of the entire herd is destined to meat production. The most popular breeds are Hereford and Angus.
- Each cattle has 1 hectare to roam.
- Hormone use and antibiotic use as growth promotant are forbidden by law since 1962 and 2011 respectively.
- According to FAO, Uruguay is the county with the largest share of agricultural land worldwide. More than 80% of the surface has agricultural use.

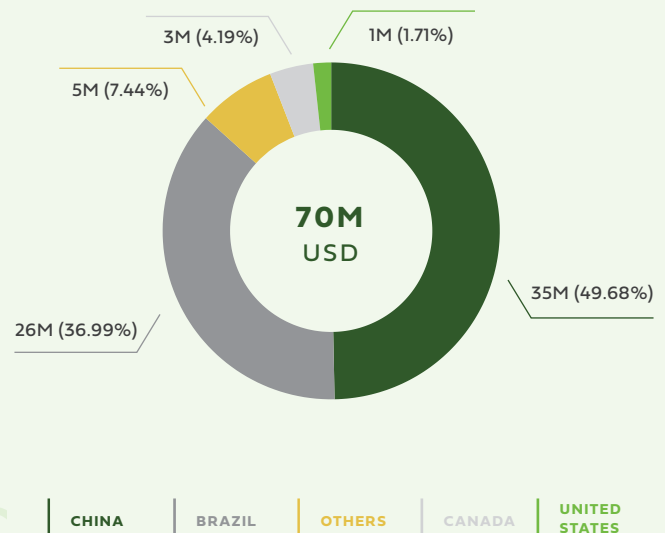
People in the industry

- Around 90,000 people are employed in the red meat industry, including on-farm production, processing and associated services.

2019 Uruguay's beef export by country



2019 Uruguay's sheepmeat export by country



Commercialization

- In 2019, Uruguay produced more than 600,000 tons CWE of beef.
- Most of our cattle is pasture raised and grass-fed. In 2019, only 12% of all cattle processed were produced under grain finished system (120 days).
- More than 15,000 tons CWE of sheep meat is commercialized between domestic market and exports.

Value of production

- The value of all beef produced in Uruguay was USD 2.1 billion in 2019.

Domestic value and consumption

- Uruguayans ate around 50 kg of beef meat in average during 2018.
- Beef consumption represented 49.1% of the total meat consumption in 2019.

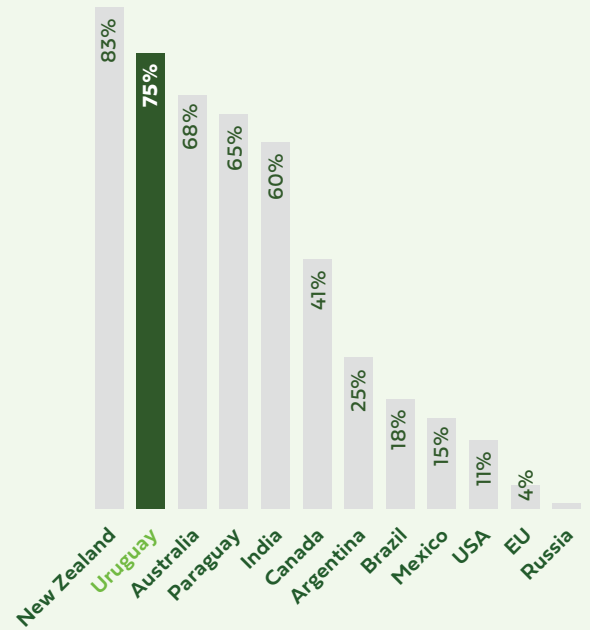
Export value and volume

- In 2019, Uruguay exported 75% of its total beef production to more than fifty countries.
- Uruguay has sanitary access to more than three quarters of the importing market. This means that our country is one of the best 5 countries in this metric. Uruguayan beef can be imported by the most sophisticated markets, for example US, Japan, Korea, Europe and China.
- 80% of sheep meat commercialized was exported in 2019.
- The value of total beef exports in 2019 was U\$S 1.8 billion
- Uruguayan live cattle exports were valued at U\$S 100 million in 2019, with 150,000 heads exported.

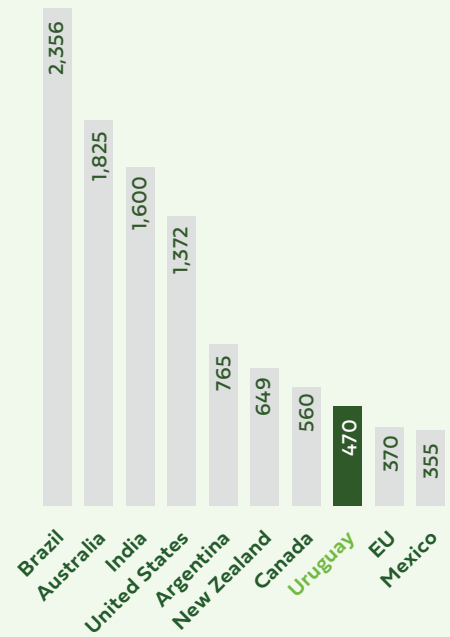
Uruguay's place in the world

- Uruguayan beef production and exports represented 1% and 4% of worldwide total, respectively, in 2019. In global beef exports, Uruguay ranked #8 in 2019.

2019 Exports / Production ratio by country



Top ten beef exporting countries (thousands of tons CWE)



Bovine and sheep livestock

