

6-13-22-April Exports

SPEAKERS

John Herath, Dan Halstrom

John Herath

U.S. beef and lamb exports continued to accelerate in April, while pork exports were below 2021's record levels. U.S. Meat Export Federation, President and CEO Dan Halstrom has the details on the latest export numbers, starting with another billion dollar month for U.S. beef.

Dan Halstrom

The beef numbers were up 3% which brings us right there at that 5% growth over last year's record. And the real key on beef is the broad based growth across quite a few different markets. We had, of course, China continues its good trend lines, but we also got you know, Taiwan, Philippines, Japan, Middle East, Caribbean. Like I said broad based growth. On the pork side, as expected we were down again because mainly because of China, down about 20% for April, which is consistent with the first quarter. We have large, record-breaking months we're comparing to in 2021. We see China improving later in the year. Lamb was up. We continue to see trend lines up as it relates to Mexico and Caribbean in particular and hopefully those trend lines can continue.

John Herath

That strong global demand continues despite headwinds such as shipping congestion, labor shortages and inflationary pressure. Halstrom says it's in part because the world wants the premium products that the U.S. producers offer.

Dan Halstrom

The advantage that the U.S. production agriculture has is that number one, we're the global standard in terms of perception on safety. You have a US establishment number on a box and you know, we're the premium category on the assumption that we're the safest product in the world. Add to that our differentiating factors of being grain fed, having a superior taste - that rich grain fed tastes on both beef and pork. We're really marketing a different product. We're not marketing on a commodity basis. So I do think what we're seeing right now is the ability of people to spend on high quality products, and then that's helping us differentiate and hopefully price is not the first criteria and in most cases it is not when it comes to U.S. pork and beef.

John Herath

For more, visit [USMEF.org](https://usmef.org). For the U.S. Meat Export Federation, I'm John Herath.