

Indonesia



Beef Prices Stay High Beginning in 2017, in Upper Rp 120 thousand / Kg

February 24, 2017 Yulida Medistiara – detikFinance- The Ministry of Commerce (Trade) predict the price of fresh beef is still high, even reaching over USD 120,000/kg. The increase will occur in some areas of Indonesia.

"Predicted for fresh meat in the traditional market in early 2017 will remain above USD 120,000 / kg," said Director General of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Trade, Okay Nurwan, in discussions pesky meat imports, at the Hotel Ibis, Cawang, East Jakarta, Friday (24 / 2/2017). According to him, the rise occurred in some regional areas such as Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Papua. This is because local meat demand continues to increase.

"Since around 60% of consumers prefer fresh meat," said Okay. he said, the average meat production reached 36,000 tons per month. While the consumption needs of approximately 56,000 tons. He estimates throughout 2017 meat consumption reached 682 116 tonnes. While its production was 441 761 tons. (HNS / HNS)

website: www.globalcompliance.asia

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Buffalo Meat to Still be Imported From India

Fri, February 17-Stefani Ribka-State-run logistics firm Perum Bulog will still sell buffalo meat from India as the recent Constitutional Court (MK) decision allows the government to do so.

The firm has secured an import permit to bring 70,000 tons of buffalo meat from India late last year and thus far, only 49,000 tons of it has arrived in the country.

The Trade Ministry's foreign trade director Oke Nurwan said the firm will still import the remaining 21,000 tons of it.

"[The 21,000 tons] will still go ahead. There is no problem with that because we've inspected the health requirements directly [related] to India prior to giving the import permit to Bulog," he said Friday.

However, after the 21,000 tons of meat arrives, the government will revise the mechanism should it decide to import more buffalo meats as ruled by the recent MK verdict. On Feb. 7, MK annulled article 36 E in the 2014 Animal Health and Husbandry Law. The court demands that zone-based meat imports be accepted only during "urgent conditions" and with "maximum security standards." The decision has triggered various interpretations among businesspeople and government officials.

Previously, beef businesspeople and cattle breeders protested the law, saying it triggered cheap buffalo meat imports from India, which hampered their businesses as they could not compete with the low prices. (lbn)

A woman shops for meat at a traditional market in Jakarta. (AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim)



Price of Staples from The Ministry of Trade on Thursday February 23rd 2017

Jakarta

Type	Price/kg (IDR)	Price/kg (AUD)
Beef	114.090	11.4090
Chicken Meat	29.260	2.9260
Chicken Egg	20.640	2.0640

National

Type	Price/kg (IDR)	Price/kg (AUD)
Beef	115.550	11.5550
Chicken Meat	29.590	2.9590
Chicken Egg	22.180	2.2180

www.kemendag.go.id



Australia

Dry Conditions Having Impact in Larger AuctionsPlus offering



By Beef Central, 25 February 2017

This week's AuctionsPlus sales showed clear evidence of cattle hitting the market due to seasonal conditions, especially out of very dry areas like Central Qld. A scattering of larger offerings helped boost numbers, with a catalogue of 8619 head, a rise of 13pc on the previous week.

Read more:

<http://www.beefcentral.com/markets/dry-conditions-having-impact-in-larger-auctionsplus-offering/>

New Collaborative Research Partnership to Boost Livestock Productivity And Genetics

A new multi-million dollar collaborative research and development funding partnership between Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and NSW DPI will provide a significant boost to productivity and genetics gains in the livestock industry.

The new collaborative partnership – announced last week in Armidale, NSW, by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce and NSW Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair – will see funding in key research areas that benefit the sheep and cattle industries.

As part of the investment, NSW DPI will commit \$17.5 million to a five-year livestock R&D collaborative partnership with MLA Donor Company (MDC) – a fully-owned subsidiary MLA.

The partnership will invest in research projects that focus on key red meat industry priorities, including:

- Improving supply chain efficiency;
- Overcoming nutritional limits to livestock genetic potential;
- Improving reproductive performance and maternal efficiency;
- Sustainability of livestock production systems;
- Enhancing the feedbase by optimising grazing and soil management.

Under this collaborative partnership model, MDC will match NSW DPI funds for research projects that address the five key red meat priorities identified.

NSW DPI will also invest an additional \$5 million in the new National Livestock Genetics Consortium (NLGC) – with in-principle support from MDC to match this investment in the NLGC.

MDC CEO Dr Christine Pitt said the partnership was a significant investment in research, development and adoption for the southern sheep and cattle sectors.

“We are continually seeking to improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the Australian red meat industry and ensure that our industry remains globally competitive,” Dr Pitt said.

“Through collaboration with respected partners like NSW DPI, and the use of our subsidiary MDC, MLA is generating new research and development investment that will have a real and lasting impact for industry.

“The investment and commitment from NSW DPI in the NLGC is particularly welcomed as the Consortium seeks to fast-track the delivery of transformational technologies to the Australian red meat and livestock industry.”

www.mla.com.au

Meatworkers ‘Nervous’ of Plant Closures

Annabelle Cleeland-24 February 2017

THE closure of Queensland's biggest sheep and goat processing plant at Wallangarra nearly a year ago was one of the first signs of the national flock shortage which has dragged several processors to a halt.

The plant owner, South Australian based Thomas Food International, cited the same challenges currently hurting southern operations with low stock numbers and inflated livestock prices. “Without a doubt it has been a hell of a loss having the major outlet taken away,” Elders Warwick livestock manager Olly Gray said. The neighbouring Tenterfield, NSW, community is still reeling from job losses after the closure of Wallangarra Meatworks which once had 260 staff on the books.

Devastatingly it is now the Cootamundra community that are dealing with the 150 permanent and 70 casual staff job losses announced last week from the closure of Manildra Meat Company. Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union (AMIEU) understand a number of plants are "suffering" with the potential of further closures and job losses.

"(Meatworkers) are nervous - their hours are being cut back in regional areas where jobs are scarce," AMIEU federal president Patricia Fernandez said. "(Further closures) are possible. We are seeing a downturn in the hours of work offered to staff because there is just not enough stock to put through the system."

Ms Fernandez suggested a brake on live exports to increase processing demand within Australia. "While there is a live export trade this will continue," she said. "In Cootamundra... Manildra is the largest employer but come Monday these people don't have job. "In some cases, entire families' whole income has been wiped out."



Vietnam

Vietnam Helps Laos Develop Agriculture

(Mard-21/02/2017) - Construction on an agricultural service centre, the largest agricultural cooperation project between Vietnam and Laos, began in Laos's northern Houaphan province on February 18.

The agreement on the project's investment was reached between the two sides during the 36th meeting of the Laos-Vietnam Cooperation Sub-committee in Vientiane in 2013. The project aims to enhance agricultural development and technical knowledge for farmers, towards improving living standards.

Covering an area of 12 ha in Ong village, Sam Nuea district, the centre has total investment of 43.6 billion VND (over 1.91 million USD), including 39.4 billion VND (over 1.73 million USD) funded by the Vietnamese Government.

As part of the project, Vietnam will help Laos to train agricultural staff and farmers. Eight training courses are expected to be arranged for more than 200 agricultural staff and farmers of Houaphan province, and fruit tree cultivation and cow and chicken breeding models will also be built. Lao staff will be sent to Vietnam to learn about agricultural development. The centre is set to be completed and put into operation in 2018.



Farming Start-Ups Need More Help

HÀ NỘI –Pragmatic policies are needed for the Government to realise its goal of promoting start-ups in the agriculture sector.

During an online discussion held by the Government portal on Friday afternoon, Đậu Anh Tuấn, head of Việt Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Legal Affairs Department, said that the Government should consider lifting the land limit which was hampering successful agricultural business.

“Successful agricultural businesses require large-scale production,” he said. “Collecting products from multiple sources makes it difficult to ensure stable quality, trace origins and to guarantee the food safety”.

The Law on Land introduced in 2013 set the land limit for agriculture by individuals or households from two to three hectares and from 10 to 30 hectares for industrial plants like rubber, coffee beans or tea trees.

“Such land limits increase production costs and erode motivation to expand business,” he said. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) was considering loosening agricultural land limits, which was a positive signal, Tuấn said, hoping that it was a step towards complete elimination.

He also suggested that the Government discard so-called production quotas. Citing examples of production quotas the MoARD set for tra fish (catfish) and lobster in 2020 – which are hoped to reach some 1.9 million and 1,940 tonnes respectively, Tuấn believed what the Government was doing was market intervention. “The Government is amending the Law on Planning and I hope that the regulations regarding production planning will be tossed out. The Government should only do macro-planning and let the market decide product supply”.

A report titled “Enabling the Business for Agriculture” from the World Bank last year ranked Việt Nam’s agricultural business environment in the lower half of Southeast Asia. The country was positioned only above Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

Plant businesses in Việt Nam scored 62.5 points on the scale from a possible 100, lower than Cambodia’s 68.8 and Bangladesh’s 70.8, while the country ranked 37th out of 40 countries in the report for the business environment for agricultural machinery with 24.4 points. The financial market for agriculture, meanwhile, was considered average with 45.3 points.

Former Science and Technology Minister Trần Quốc Thắng agreed one of the key challenges for agricultural start-ups was accessing capital.

“There is currently a shortage of investors and venture capital funds to provide finance for start-ups,” he said.

“In the long-term, the Government should set up venture capital funds and credit guarantee funds”.

How to do high-tech?

What the Government was encouraging was start-ups based on creativity and high-tech application, in which connectivity between those having business ideas and those having necessary technology played a vital role for successful start-ups, Thắng said.

The Government, in this regard, should lay out an even playing field for the three parties involved.

“They are the Government with business policies, the start-ups and the science players like researchers, institutes and universities. The connectivity between them creates what we call the start-up eco-system,” he said. “If that national eco-system of creativity is established and develops, high-tech agriculture businesses will prosper”.

Start-up company Hoa Anh Đào’s Management Board Chair Trần Lệ agreed, noting that some business ideologies failed to understand the real meaning of high-tech business and were threatening the environment. He cited the increase of plastic film made-greenhouses in Lâm Đồng Province’s Đà Lạt City which was dubbed an agricultural high-tech city.

The film is a cheap way to build greenhouses, which led to mass construction of such greenhouses in Đà Lạt. Yet it resulted in a loss of rainwater absorbed in surface soil and to nearby streams and rivers.

“High-tech agriculture was not supposed to be like that. It should be innovative and not affect the environment,” he said. “By and large, the definition of high-tech agriculture in Việt Nam is still understood very vaguely”. – VNS