

Trade in Beef and Cattle Between Canada and the United States



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A unique North American system

- Since the late nineteen eighties there has been significant growth in the value of two-way trade of cattle and beef between Canada and the United States — from \$700 million in 1989 to \$2.5 billion in 2002 (Source: U.S. International Trade Commission).
- A grain-fed production system makes the North American cattle and beef industry unique in the world. As these industries function increasingly as a single market, they also become more efficient and able to benefit from the advantages of specialization. The outlook for the sectors suggests that the U.S. and Canadian industries will continue to become more specialized.

Producing, exporting and importing beef and cattle

- While the United States is the world's leading beef producer, it is also the top importer of beef. Since 1996, Canada has been the U.S.' most significant beef supplier, a reflection of the success of our integrated markets in meeting U.S. consumer-preference for high quality, grain-fed beef.

- Canada and Mexico are the destination of 97% of U.S. live cattle exports. As well, virtually all U.S. cattle imports have come from Canada and Mexico. Even though these imports have represented only a fraction of U.S. cattle inventories (e.g., 2.1 % between 1994 and 1998), they make a valuable contribution to the long-term success of our integrated market.

Increasing cattle inventories in North America

- Canadian breeding stock, semen and embryos facilitate ongoing genetic improvement to cattle inventories in North-America. The movement of feeder and slaughter cattle between our countries allows backgrounders, feedlots and processors on both sides of the border to operate at capacity, making it easier to compete effectively at home and around the world.

For more information

For details on the mutual benefits of beef and cattle industry between Canada and the United States, please visit our Web site at

http://www.agr.gc.ca/itpd-dpci/english/country/usadvocacy_e.htm

All figures are in U.S. dollars

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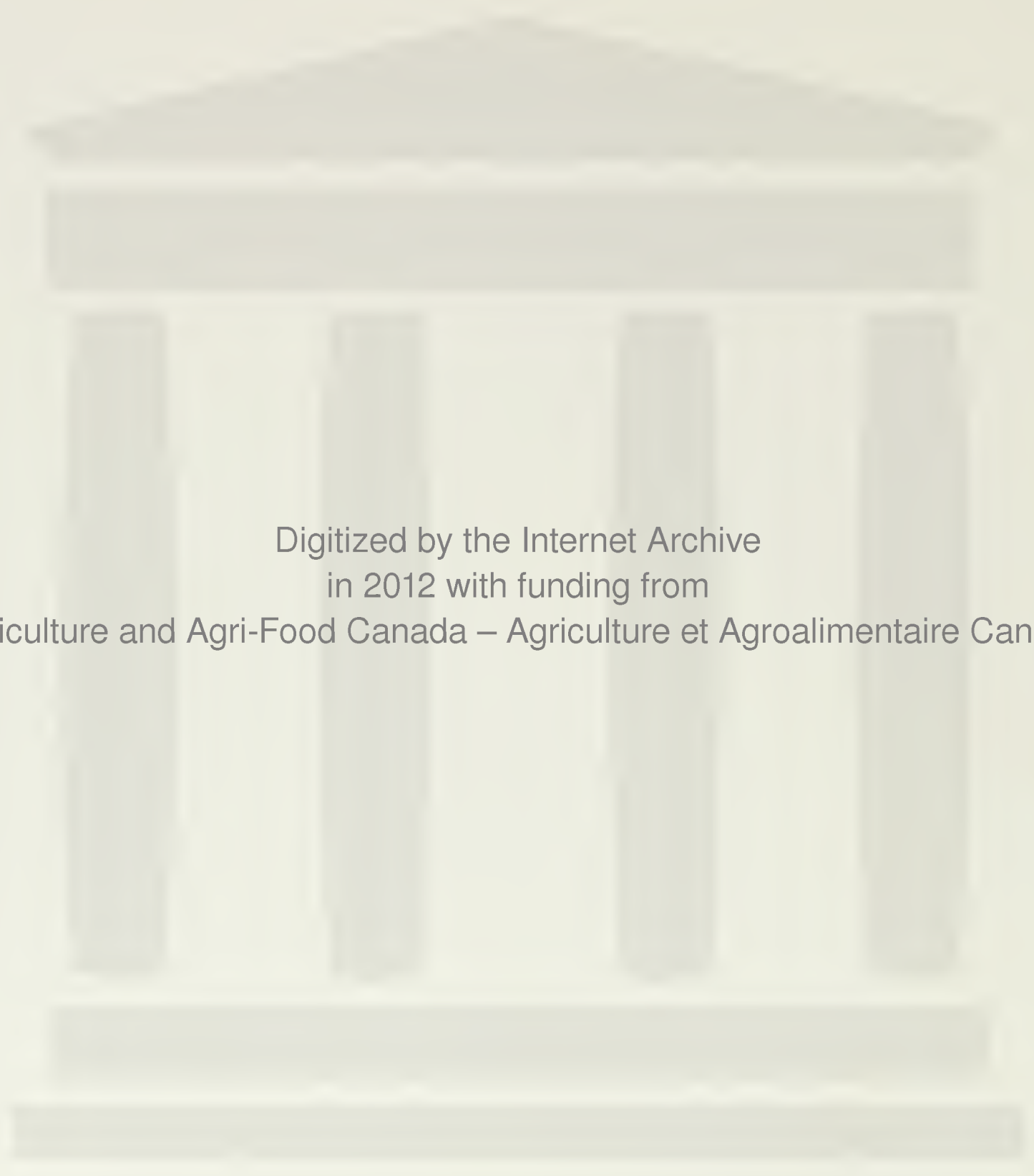


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