

06/17/2003 Entry: "U.S. Files WTO Case Against Mexico"

WASHINGTON, D.C. – R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) Washington, D.C. Coordinator Trent W. Thomas reported today that the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) office is filing a case at the World Trade Organization (WTO) against Mexico concerning Mexico's antidumping duties on U.S. beef and white long grain rice. Mexico imposed antidumping duties on U.S. beef in April of 2000. In addition, Mexico has been in the process this last year of changing its antidumping and countervailing laws and USTR has requested that these actions also be part of the WTO consultations. "Dumping is considered when one country believes products are being imported below their cost or home market value."

Robert Zoelick is quoted in a joint USDA/USTR press release, saying, "Trade remedies are an essential part of the rules-based international trading system, but they must be used in accordance with those rules. By filing a WTO case today, we are working to ensure that Mexico doesn't use foreign trade remedy laws as unfair barriers to U.S. products..."

U.S. cattle producers applaud the administration's action in this case," explained Thomas. "It goes a long way in helping restore U.S. producers' confidence in ensuring that trade laws are not implemented on a preferential basis."

R-CALF USA, the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America is a national, non-profit cattle association representing cattle producers in the areas of trade and marketing. R-CALF USA has 8,700 individual members in 43 states and more than 46 affiliated local and state cattle and farm organizations. For more information, visit www.r-calfusa.com or call 406-252-2516.