



March 31, 2026

Hon. Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

On behalf of the Border Trade Alliance (BTA), we write to express our strong support for continued collaboration between the United States and Mexico to safely resume cross-border trade in live cattle, while maintaining rigorous safeguards against the spread of New World Screwworm (NWS).

We recognize and appreciate USDA's vigilance in protecting the health of the U.S. livestock herd. Preventing the reintroduction of NWS is a serious and legitimate concern, and we support science-based measures that reduce risk and protect producers on both sides of the border.

At the same time, the prolonged disruption of feeder cattle imports from Mexico is placing increasing strain on the North American cattle and beef supply chain. U.S. producers have long relied on Mexican feeder cattle as a complementary input that supports feedyard operations, sustains rural jobs, and helps stabilize beef supplies for American consumers. Continued restrictions risk tightening supplies further at a time when domestic herd levels are already historically low, contributing to higher prices and reduced market flexibility.

We are encouraged by the steps Mexican federal and state authorities have taken to strengthen surveillance, inspection, and traceability related to NWS. These efforts, which include enhanced veterinary oversight, quarantine infrastructure improvements, and expanded monitoring programs, underscore the importance of a coordinated, binational approach to animal health. We believe these actions provide a constructive foundation for continued engagement between USDA and its Mexican counterparts.

Given the integrated nature of the North American cattle and beef market, we respectfully urge USDA to continue working closely with Mexican authorities to establish a clear, science-based pathway for the safe resumption of live cattle imports. A framework that incorporates robust inspection protocols, targeted mitigation measures, and ongoing monitoring can both protect U.S. animal health and restore critical supply chain flows.

Maintaining this balance is essential. North American agricultural trade has long been a model of how security and economic integration can reinforce one another. Ensuring that policies reflect both imperatives will help preserve the competitiveness of U.S. producers, support rural economies, and avoid unnecessary disruptions to consumers.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and stand ready to support efforts that advance both biosecurity and the efficient movement of agricultural goods across our borders.

Sincerely,

Pete Sepulveda, Jr.
Chairman

Britton Mullen
President