WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/GEN/1801

2 July 2020

(20-4583) Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Original: English

CODEX MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS AND RISK MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS (CX/MRL 2-2018)

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES

The following document, received on 26 June 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

1.1. The United States takes the floor to recall the work of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) to establish maximum residue levels (MRLs) for ractopamine based on the scientific review of the Joint WHO/FAO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA).

1.2. Codex based its 2012 decision on JECFA's science-based review and after a decision taken up by its membership to establish MRLs for ractopamine. We applaud the many Members that have adopted these MRLs.

1.3. Use of ractopamine enables productivity gains while reducing pressures on the amount of land, feed, and water needed for swine and cattle production. Indeed, tools like ractopamine support enhanced availability of safe, nutritious food at affordable prices.

1.4. Although Codex established MRLs for ractopamine eight years ago, US producers continue to encounter bans in major global markets.

1.5. Recent analysis by the Center for Agricultural Trade at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) estimated that restrictions on the use of ractopamine worldwide reduced pork exports by nearly 85%.

1.6. Virginia Tech estimated that the ad valorem equivalent (AVE) of these bans is equivalent to an 88.9% tariff. This AVE tariff is four times higher than the average applied tariff rate of 22.6% on global pork trade.

1.7. Many of us have experienced challenges in helping our policy makers understand the importance of the technical work conducted in this Committee. For example, we have discussed ractopamine bans as a specific trade concern for many years in this room.

1.8. The Virginia Tech analysis follows best practices in its use of gravity modelling. While all econometric modelling rests on certain assumptions, the use of gravity modelling to detect trade barriers associated with specific trade concerns is highly appropriate.

1.9. The results provide a new way to understand the extent of trade distortion imposed by specific measures, such as the non-use of Codex MRLs.
