

Belarus Scraps Ban on Live Cattle From Europe

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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A cow nuzzles its calf in a field near the village of Lukyanovka in Russia's Siberian Khakassia region.

Belarus, aiming to boost food exports to neighboring Russia, has canceled a ban on live cattle from the EU, Yuri Pivovarchuk, the head of veterinary surveillance at Belarussian agriculture ministry, said.

Minsk said the cancellation of the ban was not caused by its plans to increase exports to Russia, which restricted meat, dairy and some other products worth about \$9 billion from EU, the U.S., Norway, Canada and Australia in early August in retaliation for sanctions over the Ukraine crisis.

Belarus said the cattle ban, imposed in 2012-2013, was canceled due to reduced concern over Schmallenberg virus, which infected many sheep and cows in some EU countries in 2011.

"On the basis of a letter from the World Organization for Animal Health ... we concluded this

virus does not pose a threat to animals and their offspring now," Pivovarchuk said.

Belarus plans to increase food supplies to Russia by 15 to 40 percent this year, it has said. Exports of meat and meat products to Russia were worth \$1.35 billion in January to May.

Belarus now accepts live cattle from Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, France, Britain, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Austria, Denmark, Croatia, Latvia, Hungary, Poland and Lithuania, Pivovarchuk added.

On Aug. 7, Russia banned all meat, fish, dairy, fruit and vegetable imports from the U.S., the EU, Norway, Canada, and Australia for one year.

Russia imported \$17.2 billion of food last year from countries covered by the ban, of which \$9.2 billion was in the affected categories, the International Trade Center, a joint venture of the UN and World Trade Organization, says.

Moscow has said it will allow imports from Belarus and Kazakhstan of food processed from Western raw materials as it seeks to cap domestic food price increases.

See also:

[Russian Food Watchdog Stops Imports of Banned EU Fruit Via Belarus](#)

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