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(Neb)-New U-S Beef Agreement With EU Drawing Praise

By: John Axtell Posted at: 08/05/2019 09:49 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska leaders are praising a new agreement signed Saturday allowing the United States to nearly triple its annual duty-free exports of beef to the European Union.

American ranchers will be guaranteed a bigger share of Europe's beef market, with annual duty-free exports expected to grow from the current \$150 million dollars to \$420 million when the agreement is fully implemented in 7 years.

Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts issued a statement calling the new agreement "a major growth opportunity" that will allow the state to build on 15 years of successful trade with Europe.

Ricketts says negotiations have been going on for years on increasing the amount of beef Nebraska exports to the European Union, so he's looking forward to spreading the message of Nebraska beef on his trade mission to Germany this November.

Nebraska Republican and Senate Ag Committee member Deb Fischer, a cattle-rancher from the Valentine area, says the deal marks another great opportunity for Nebraska families, communities, and businesses.

Fischer also says she looks forward to continuing to work with the Trump administration on opening more markets for Nebraska's hardworking ag producers.