

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER



September 9, 2009

Mr. Adam J. Szubin, Esq.
Director
Office of Foreign Assets Control
U.S. Department of the Treasury
Treasury Annex
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Szubin:

As you may be aware, Texas is No. 1 in the nation for cattle production and is a leading international exporter of cattle. With an economic impact of about \$15.2 billion, the success of the cattle industry is crucial not only to Texas, but to the rest of the nation.

Unfortunately, this industry is currently threatened by an infestation of fever ticks in South Texas.

Fever ticks transmit bovine babesiosis, which can cause morbidity in cattle. After many years of systematic eradication in Texas they were recently reintroduced to our state. To more effectively and efficiently control the fever tick, Dr. Bob Hillman, with the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), recently requested the Office of Foreign Assets Control grant a license to purchase and import Gavac, an anti-tick vaccine produced only in Cuba.

Gavac presents a groundbreaking new possibility to combat the effects these destructive pests have on the U.S. cattle herd. Obtaining this vaccine is vital to Texas and the United States Department of Agriculture's effort to protect a large portion of the United States cattle industry.

I support this request and also concur with TAHC's research that demonstrates vaccinating cattle against cattle fever is currently the most promising control method. Gavac is the only commercially available vaccine of this nature in the world and provides an opportunity to reduce the impact of fever ticks on one of our nation's oldest and largest agricultural sectors.



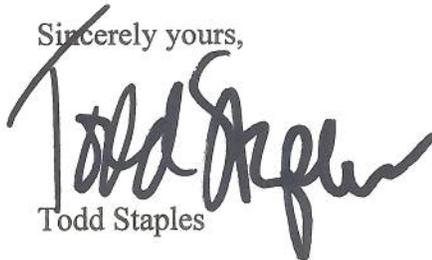
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Currently, the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act allows for the trade of agricultural and medical products from the United States to Cuba. In this case, allowing the one-time purchase of this Cuban-made product, Gavac, into the United States would help meet our livestock industry's needs.

Furthermore, if there is any role the Texas Department of Agriculture can perform in this process, I stand ready to assist. We have been facilitating the export of agricultural products to Cuba and could perform various facilitation roles in this importation. For example, if this importation is deemed to require an offsetting export of agricultural products from the U.S. to Cuba to facilitate the monetary transfer requirements for importing products from Cuba to the U.S., we would welcome the opportunity to identify those exports.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I may be of assistance on any other subject.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Staples". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font. The first name "Todd" is written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Staples".

Todd Staples

TS/DD/to

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Bob Hillman, Executive Director, Texas Animal Health Commission