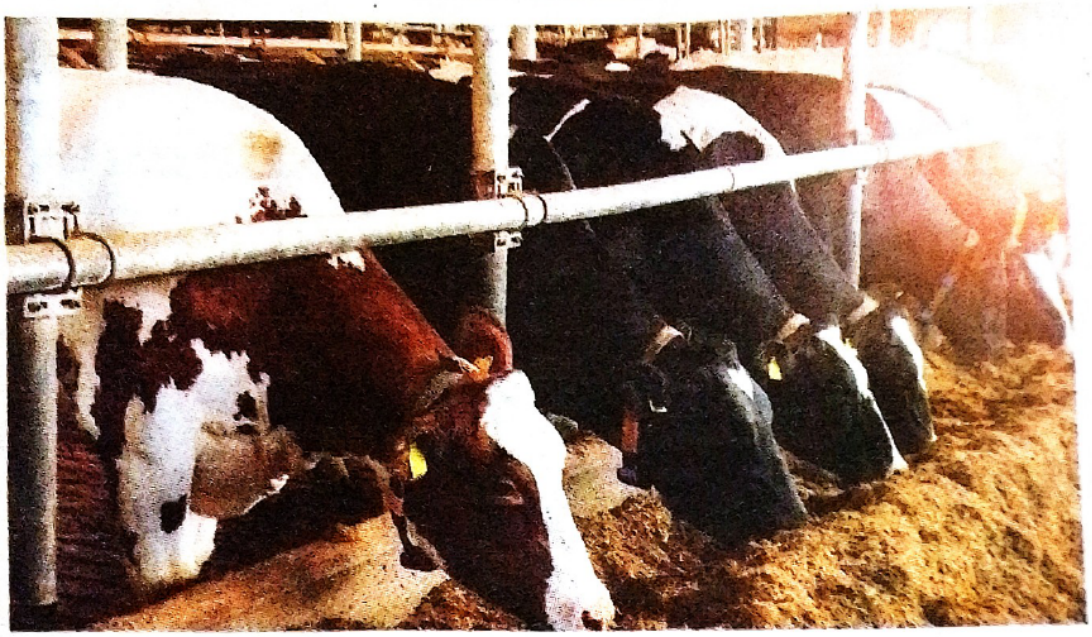
US gets deal for livestock, chicks, eggs in Ethiopia

The move opens doors for American exporters while supporting Ethiopia's drive to modernise livestock sector



Ethiopian Agricultural Authority approved market access requests for live cattle, day-old chicks and hatching eggs on December 16, 2025. Picture: File

JAMES ANYANZWA
THE EASTAFRICAN

The United States of America has secured a market for its live cattle, day-old chicks and eggs in Ethiopia.

The deal comes just three months after Washington offered to back Ethiopia's $10 billion Bishoftu International Airport near Addis Ababa, marking the Trump administration's first major business deal in the Horn of Africa region.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) disclosed that the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority approved market access requests for live cattle, day-old chicks and hatching eggs on December 16, 2025, after officials from the two countries finalised new veterinary health certificates authorising the exports.

"The United States, in coordination with Ethiopia's regulatory authorities, has finalised new veterinary health certificates authorising the export of US live cattle, day-old chicks and hatching eggs to Ethiopia," the US agency says in a report dated December 23, 2025.

The US... has finalised new veterinary health certificates authorising the export of US live cattle, day-old chicks and hatching eggs

USDA

The deal also secures a market for US bovine semen and bovine embryos in Ethiopia.

The US has been importing coffee, textiles and garments from Addis Ababa and exporting aircraft, engines, spare parts, machinery and wheat, under a framework set by a 1951 Treaty of Amity.

Human rights issues

Ethiopia's textile and apparel exports to the US under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa) framework were suspended in 2022 due to human rights concerns.

China remains the top foreign investor in Ethiopia, followed by Saudi Arabia and Turkiye.

The US backing of the multibillion-dollar Bishoftu International Airport also signals Washington's intention to maintain strong ties with a key ally in the Horn of Africa, despite Ethiopia's internal challenges.

Ethiopia's livestock sector remains one of the most important pillars of its agricultural economy, underpinned by Africa's largest livestock population.

According to official data, Ethiopia is home to 70 million cattle, 43 million sheep, 53 million goats, eight million camels, and around 57 million poultry.