

NEWS FLASH No. 30 (3 February 2004 - 6:00 pm)

AVIAN FLU and DOWN & FEATHER PRODUCTS

Rumors are swirling around the down and feather industry about the impact of avian flu. Many chinese companies are reporting a USA ban on down and feather imports. In fact, German television reported such a ban last week.

IDFL offers the following information as of 3 February 2004, 6:00 pm.

1. Have Asian down & feather products been banned by the US government?

We find **NO** official confirmation from any US agency that such a ban exists. However, APHIS (Animal Plant Health Inspection Services) of USDA has indicated that they are "considering" a temporary block of certain products. They will make a decision shortly.

2. Has China banned export of down and feather products?

China is reacting very strongly to avian flu. China has placed a temporary hold on exports of down and feather products. This may vary from province to province. We have received a letter from the CIQ office in Xiaoshan/Hangzhou placing a temporary ban on exports from Zhejiang Province.

3. Will the avian flu crisis affect down and feather prices?

YES, prices appear to be increasing in the short term as a result of both fear and manipulative action. This could be aggravated if large numbers of Asian flocks are slaughtered for preventative reasons or if governments act impulsively and recklessly in either banning imports or exports.

4. Can avian flu be transmitted via down and feather products?

NO, please see http://www.idfl.com/articles/IDFL_CleanFlu.pdf