Twitter Thread by Michael M. ■■■■■■■■■■



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@vivamjm

Brexit also brings UK pork sector to standstill. Surprise eh? @RichardAENorth ■ UK pork processors are experiencing significant issues in exporting products to the EU, which has already brought part of the industry to a complete standstill, risking knock-on impacts on farm.

> Sector by sector falling overhttps://t.co/6HIXzf8qq8
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> — Morgan Leahy (@MorganLeahy) January 14, 2021

The widely seen footage of overzealous Dutch (*my edit: "no they were not"*) inspection officials confiscating ham sandwiches transported by British hauliers is just the tip of the iceberg as far as the UK pig sector is concerned.
The NPA's processor members have reported that

excessive (*my edit: only for non-EU members*) bureaucracy associated with paperwork requirements are causing delays at Dover, Calais and other ports. With pork being a perishable product, these delays are making UK shipments unattractive to buyers in the EU, forcing processors

to reject shipments and cancel future orders.
Despite the trade deal agreed between the EU & UK just before Christmas, the UK's formal departure from the EU Customs Union and Single Market was always going to mean additional checks, new labelling and certification requirements

and delays at ports. While the full overall impact of the new rules is yet to be felt, as UK export volumes remain lower than normal for the time of year, the UK pig sector is already feeling the effect. Processors have reported a number of issues, including:

• Officials at ports in the UK, France, Ireland and the Netherlands are taking a far more stringent approach to assessing paperwork, which in itself appears to be excessive. (welcome to 3rd country status)
One load was caught at Calais for 20 hours undergoing vet checks and then

rejected upon finally reaching its destination in Germany because of the delay.
• Additional paperwork is causing major delays for processors – one processor said it took nine hours to prepare the paperwork for one shipment to the EU last week.

• Another processor reported that when sending product to the Netherlands, each Export Health Certificate (EHC) needed 12 stamps for the English, Dutch and French versions required in duplicate.
Therefore, for a 15 tonne load, the vet had to stamp paperwork 72 times.

There is no electronic option at present – all EHCs have to be in hard copy
• Another processor reported that as we are now a 3rd country, new rules require inspectors to check labels on each box in a consignment of pork products meaning that the whole pallet has to be offloaded

and broken apart to check the boxes in the middle, adding more time to the process.
• The Eurotunnel needs to process 500 lorries an hour but only has the veterinary capacity for 150 an hour which will slow things down even more.
• The administrative burden of EHCs means that

vets are struggling to meet the demand and the costs for exporters have increased.
“We are seeing a bureaucracy overload and it is already having a big impact on the pig sector,” NPA chief executive Zoe Davies said.
“This is partly an inevitable consequence of Brexit –

we always knew it would mean more red tape, checks and delays. But there is a political element, too. Why are 30% of all UK consignments to the EU are being checked? This is far more than many other 3rd Country exporters to the EU - for New Zealand, for example, the figure is 1%

(*my edit: yes that's because of the *negotiated* deal and the fact NZ is not wanting the right to *diverge* on standards. It's not fekking hard to understand surely?*)

Dr Davies explained that the delays were forcing processors to cancel some shipments, with

the cull sow trade particularly badly hit. Processors are currently wary of sending shipments out in case they are rejected due to deterioration of product following severe delays. “The concern is that the situation is only going to get worse as export volumes increase over ...

he coming weeks, putting more pressure on a system that is already buckling,” Dr Davies added.
“For the pig sector, this comes on top of an already very difficult situation with processing plants hit by COVID-19 outbreaks and therefore unable to process pigs at the usual rate,

meaning pigs are already staying on farms longer than they otherwise would.”
In the first 10 months of 2020, the UK exported more than 180,000 tonnes of pork to the EU, a vitally important trade for the sector accounting for 44% of UK pork exports.

“If this trade grinds to a standstill, on top of the COVID issues, we are going to see some serious problems across the sector,” Dr Davies said.
“The Government does not appear to think there is a problem. The clear message we are receiving from our processors is that there is –

and we want to see some concerted action and political will to speed the processes up on both sides, with greater priority given to perishable products, such as pork.”
While UK products going to the EU are subject to additional checks, the same rules won’t be applied to products

coming the other way for some time, as the UK is phasing in its checks. (*my edit: because HMG knows it does not have the capacity do so. More peak chaos coming around 1/4 and esp around 1/7*)
“While this delay is convenient for a Government that wants to ensure there are no

empty shelves in supermarkets, UK producers are being placed at a huge disadvantage and we have absolutely no leverage to convince the EU to change their position.
“It is clear that the Commission wishes to make Brexit as painful and as messy as possible to prevent any other

country from following suit, so we have very little hope of improving things. (**My edit: The Commision is there to protect the better interests of member states over *competitor* non-member states..& to appy 3rd country rules consistently Why *is* this so hard to understand??**)

“The Government needs to accept we have a situation here that needs to be resolved, and quickly,” Dr Davies added.

*My edit: None of above should be a surprise as the rules are not "new" but *existing* rules for non SM/CU members... just needed to study *these* non-member rules

adding further weight to the realisation that most of the UK somehow rather idiotically/unforgiveably throught the "deal" (any FTA) was going to match that of SM/CU membership*

Extra popcorn supplies will be purchased ■