



A 747-400 jet loaded with 253 Herefords left Chicago O'Hare June 22 and 22 hours later arrived in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

U.S. Herefords Travel to Kazakhstan

Dinara Ranch imports first U.S. beef cattle — Herefords.

by **Angie Stump Denton**



Traveling with the cattle were Mark McClintock, manager of Rocking Chair Ranch, Ft. McKavett, Texas, and Gary Wilson of Reasons Group Inc., Ft. Worth, Texas.

June 22 a jumbo jet full of Herefords left Chicago O'Hare International Airport destined for Kazakhstan, in Central Asia. It was an historic event; the group was the first U.S. beef cattle to be imported to Kazakhstan.

Traveling with the cattle were Mark McClintock, manager of Rocking Chair Ranch, Ft. McKavett, Texas, and Gary Wilson of Reasons Group Inc., Ft. Worth, Texas. McClintock served as a representative of the Winrock Foundation, an international volunteer organization.

"It was awesome," McClintock says about the trip and the opportunity to spend time in

Kazakhstan helping acclimate the cattle to their new environment. "I was so impressed with the skill and knowledge of the men who took care of the cattle, especially with the limited facilities they have available to them at this time," he adds.

The cattle were purchased by Ataibekov Bakyt, owner of Dinara Ranch, which is a 700-head ranch located in southeastern Kazakhstan. The purchase included 10 bulls from L.C. Whitehead of Rocking Chair Ranch, two bulls from Mark and Teresa McClintock, and 126 cows and 115 calves from Imig Herefords, Lakeside, Neb., Hoffman Herefords, Leola, S.D., and Douthit Herefords, St. Francis, Kan.



The cattle were loaded into 38 crates.



The cattle were loaded from the trucks into the crates. McClintock says it took about two hours to move the cattle from the three cattle trucks to the plane.

Why U.S. Herefords?

Bakyt attended the Fort Worth Stock Show in January and had the opportunity to go on a Texas ranch tour. During the tour he decided he wanted to try to purchase some U.S. Herefords to add to his herd that already included whitefaced cattle similar to Herefords.

“To purchase the cattle we communicated with Mr. Gary Wilson and Mr. Oscar Kennedy. They are both great people, and they helped us so much,” Bakyt’s son, Bakytnur, says. “We chose U.S. Herefords because, firstly, nobody before us has brought the Hereford cattle from U.S. to Central Asia and we already had similar cattle on our ranch.” He adds similar climate was another reason for their decision.

The ranch owners say they hope to add size and muscle to their herd to keep up with a growing demand for beef in Kazakhstan’s booming economy.

Wilson located the cattle and put together the group, and Oscar Kennedy of American Marketing Services Inc., Glen Allen, Va., was the main exporter.

Future plans

This first shipment of U.S. Herefords to Kazakhstan is expected to be the first of many to come.

“The aim of Dinara Ranch is to open the first Hereford ranch in Central Asia,” Bakytnur says. “Also to increase the quantity and quality of the product, to work only in one way — Hereford.” He also explains they hope to host an annual sale after 2010. **HW**

Editor’s Note: Pictures on the following pages were supplied by Mark McClintock and Gary Wilson. The amazing photos demonstrate the process of transporting the cattle as well as include pictures of the ranch in Kazakhstan.

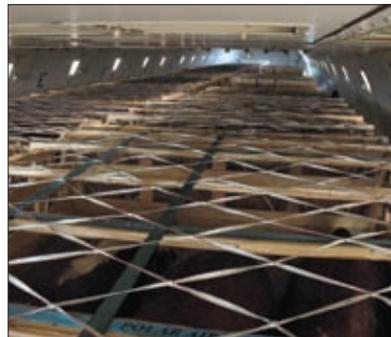
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The loaded crates were taken from the truck to a lift system that put them on the plane.



A track system inside the plane moved the crates into position for the flight.



McClintock explains the cattle were very comfortable in the crates. They had enough room to lie down and move around.



The plane is loaded full of crates in less than two hours.

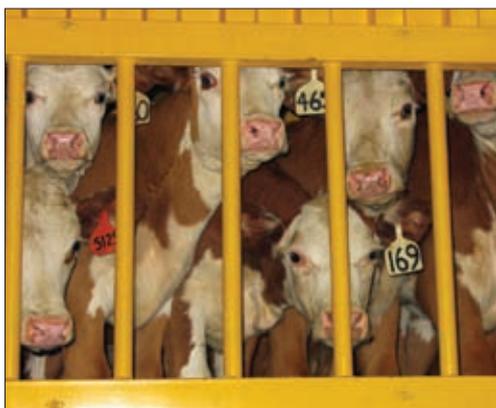
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The U.S. cattle arrive at the airport in Almaty. Pictured is Gary Wilson with Bakytnur and Bakyt, who purchased the cattle.



Unloading the cattle in Kazakhstan.



A group of calves on the truck in Kazakhstan.



McClintock, Wilson and the Dinara Ranch farm crew.



U.S. Herefords heading for water at their new home after traveling 48 hours and 12,000 miles.



A couple of times each day cattle are driven to water and then coaxed in a different direction to graze. At the end of the day, the cattle are all brought in close to the headquarters because of predators.



U.S. Herefords at home on the range in Kazakhstan.



A Kazakhstan whitefaced cow and her calf.



In addition to the cattle, Bakyt also has a large farming operation that includes rice, barley and alfalfa.



McClintock stayed in Kazakhstan for 14 days to help acclimate the cattle to their new environment. He also helped sort cattle into breeding groups.



The ranch crew is in the process of building winter shelters for the cattle as pictured here.