

# **U.S. Trade Body Probes Korea's Beef Rules**

The Chosun Ilbo  
September 17, 2007

The U.S. International Trade Commission on Friday said it has launched an investigation into South Korean and Japanese restrictions on imports of U.S. beef, acting upon a Congressional request.

According to a statement by the ITC, the U.S. Senate Finance Committee has claimed that the American livestock industry is suffering damages because of South Korea's tight restrictions on American beef, allegedly imposed to prevent the spread of mad cow disease.

The ITC, an independent federal agency, plans to report its findings to the finance committee on June 6 of next year. It will hold a public hearing on the matter on Nov. 15.

Max Baucus, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and a Democrat from Montana, part of America's "beef belt" region, has argued that Congress should not ratify the Korea-U.S. free trade agreement unless Korea completely lifts its restrictions on U.S. beef imports.