Retail Supply Chain Update
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Warren, Booker investigate Tyson, other pork companies over China exports, coronavirus

- Democratic Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker said Tuesday they are opening an investigation of Tyson Foods, JBS USA, Cargill and Smithfield Foods.
- The move comes after reports that the meatpacking companies were exporting a record amount of pork to China, while warning of impending meat shortages and raising prices in the United States during the coronavirus pandemic.
- In letters to the CEOs of the companies Warren and Booker demanded information about how each company protects workers who have or may contract the coronavirus, and how much meat they each export to China.

Hundreds Test Positive for Coronavirus at Tyson Foods Plant in Arkansas, Most Asymptomatic

- Out of 3,748 Tyson employees tested in Benton and Washington Counties, 481 were found to have coronavirus, with 455 of those patients reporting no symptoms.
- The outbreak was centered at Tyson’s poultry plant in the town of Springdale.

JBS Ordered to Test Workers as More Brazil Meat Plants Register COVID-19 Cases

- Food producer JBS SA was ordered to test all workers for COVID-19 at a Rio Grande do Sul meat plant, labor prosecutors said on Tuesday, on the same day they raised the number of meatpacking plants with confirmed cases of COVID-19 to 32.
- State prosecutors said a labor court ruled that JBS should test all workers at its Três Passos plant in five days, as well as put on paid leave any employees who test positive for COVID-19, for a minimum of 14 days.
- Slaughterhouses in 23 municipalities in Rio Grande do Sul state, the country’s southernmost state, registered COVID-19 cases among food plant workers. The state is Brazil’s third-largest chicken exporter and producer.
- To date, some 4,957 workers at meat plants have tested positive for COVID-19, 25.14% of the state’s total 19,710 cases, the labor prosecutors said. That proportion was as high as 35% at one point.
- Five employees from Rio Grande do Sul’s meatpacking plants and 12 relatives or friends of people working in the industry died because of the disease, the labor prosecutors said.