

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 18, 2009

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## **Importance of Trade for U.S. Agriculture**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Members of a food and agricultural coalition today issued the attached document “Importance of Trade for U.S. Agriculture” to underscore the positive contributions from trade and its importance to the economic recovery and food security of the nation.

The coalition noted that exports are essential to the prosperity of U.S. food and agriculture. About 25 percent of the total volume of U.S. farm production is exported, with many commodities having a much higher dependence on trade. U.S. food and agricultural exports are directly tied to jobs here at home and create economic opportunities for American farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses.

The coalition applauds discussions being held this week between President Obama and his Asian counterparts concerning the need for global economic growth and urges support for closer economic integration between nations through trade.

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## ***IMPORTANCE OF TRADE FOR U.S. AGRICULTURE***

- Exports are essential to the prosperity of U.S. agriculture. About 25 percent of the total volume of U.S. farm production is exported, and many U.S. commodities have a much higher dependence on trade.
- The positive impact of exports will be diminished as long as the United States is not moving forward with an agricultural trade agenda.
- The drop in U.S. agricultural exports from 2008 to 2009 is estimated to have cost roughly 160,000 American jobs.
- While the United States is not opening markets through new trade agreements, many other countries are negotiating bilateral and regional agreements that are reducing U.S. agriculture's competitiveness and market share around the world.
- By 2010 there will be more than 600 bilateral and regional trade agreements worldwide. The U.S. share of that figure will be at most 20 agreements.
- The map below indicates those countries currently negotiating or planning to negotiate bilateral or regional trade agreements that do NOT include the United States.



Latvia \* Lithuania \* Luxembourg \* Malawi \* Netherlands \* Denmark \* Dominican Republic \* Slovakia \* Slovenia \* South Africa \* Sweden \* United Kingdom \* Iceland \* Taiwan \* Brunei Darussalam \* Cambodia \* Vietnam \* Canada \* Mexico \* Antigua and Barbuda \* Trinidad and Tobago \* St. Kitts and Nevis \* Malaysia \* Honduras \* Nicaragua \* Paraguay \* Uruguay \* Turkey \* Bahrain \* Israel \* Mali \* Burkina Faso \* Burundi \* Cameroon \* Cape Verde \* Congo \* Djibouti \* Egypt \* Eritrea \* Kenya \* Lesotho \* Liberia \* Rwanda \* Sao Tome and Principe \* Senegal \* Seychelles \* Sierra Leone \* Somalia \* South Africa \* Sudan \* Swaziland \* Tanzania \* Togo \* Uganda \* Zambia