

# Trade Notes...

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## USDA Awards \$10 Million to Support Trade Building Projects

Seventy-five agricultural trade building projects will receive a total of \$10 million in funding from the Emerging Markets Program. Recipients include universities, federal agencies, trade groups and nonprofit organizations. Projects will be conducted in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, South America and the Caribbean. The Emerging Markets Program, administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, fosters growth in U.S. agricultural exports to low- and middle-income countries that offer viable markets for U.S. agricultural products. The program supports research on new markets, market promotion of U.S. agricultural goods, trade missions and trade dispute resolution. It also sponsors training so potential buyers in emerging economies can profitably use U.S. agricultural goods. A list of this year's awardees and additional information on the Emerging Markets Program is available on the FAS website at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/em-markets/em-markets.html>, or by calling (202) 720-4327.

## U.S. Wins Case on Access for Apples in Japan

A WTO (World Trade Organization) panel has agreed with the United States that Japan's import restrictions on U.S. apples are unjustified and are in breach of Japan's WTO obligations. Japan imposes severe restrictions on imported U.S. apples, allegedly to protect Japanese plants from fire blight, a plant disease. In prevailing at the WTO, the United States showed that there is no scientific evidence that harvested apples can transmit fire blight. The WTO decision should lead to improved access for U.S. apple growers and allow them to realize the full potential of this important market. Japan's severe fire blight restrictions have essentially blocked U.S. apples from reaching Japanese consumers. For example, U.S. apple exports were \$102,000 in 2002, down from \$6 million in 1994, the year before the restrictions, a decrease of 98.3 percent.