



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Foreign  
Agricultural  
Service

# FACT SHEET

## *U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement*

September 2009

The U.S.–Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement was signed on November 22, 2006. This comprehensive trade agreement will eliminate tariffs and other barriers to goods and services, promote economic growth, and expand trade between the two countries.

- Colombia is already an important market for America’s farmers and ranchers. In 2008, the United States exported a record \$1.67 billion of agricultural products to Colombia. Our top exports to the market were corn, wheat, soybean and soybean products, corn gluten feed, and cotton.
- With the Agreement in place, agricultural trade between the United States and Colombia will change from a one-way street to a two-way street since virtually all food and agricultural products from Colombia already enter the United States duty-free.
- Many agricultural commodities will benefit from the agreement as more than half of current U.S. farm exports to Colombia will become duty-free immediately and the remaining tariffs will be eliminated within 15 years.
  - Colombia will immediately eliminate duties on wheat, barley, soybeans, soybean meal and flour, high quality beef, bacon, almost all fruit and vegetable products, wheat, peanuts, whey, cotton and the vast majority of processed products.
  - The agreement also provides duty-free tariff rate quotas on standard beef, chicken leg quarters, dairy products, corn, sorghum, animal feeds, rice, and soybean oil.
  - **Yellow Corn.** In 2008, the United States exported \$591 million of yellow corn to Colombia. Under the agreement, Colombia will provide immediate duty-free access through a 2.1-million ton TRQ with 5 percent annual growth. Colombia will phase-out the out-of-quota tariff of 25 percent over 12 years.
  - **Wheat and Barley.** In 2008, the United States exported \$330 million of wheat and barley to Colombia. Under the agreement, Colombia’s tariffs on all wheat and wheat products, as well as all barley and barley products will be immediately eliminated.
  - **Soybeans and Soybean Products.** In 2008, the United States exported \$288 million of soybeans and soybean products (cake and meal, oil) to Colombia. Under the agreement, Colombia will immediately eliminate tariffs on soybeans and soy meal and flour.
  - **Corn Gluten Feed and Meal.** In 2008, the United States exported \$63 million of corn gluten feed to Colombia. Under the agreement, Colombia will immediately eliminate the tariff on industrial use starch residues.
  - **Cotton.** In 2008, the United States exported \$67 million of cotton to Colombia. Under the agreement, Colombia will immediately eliminate cotton tariffs.
- On the regulatory side, Colombia has put in place OIE-consistent import measures on meat and poultry and addressed other SPS and technical standards issues. Colombia has agreed to recognize the equivalence of the U.S. meat and poultry inspection systems.
- In addition, the Agreement commits the United States to prioritizing Colombia for trade capacity building programs to assist Colombia in fully benefiting from this new partnership.
- The American Farm Bureau Federation predicts that this agreement, once fully implemented, could provide \$690 million in gains each year for American agriculture. In addition, the free trade agreement with Colombia is supported by over 40 U.S. agricultural and food associations.

*For questions about the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement and its impact on U.S. agriculture, please contact FAS Legislative and Public Affairs Office at (202)720-7115 or LPA@fas.usda.gov.*