



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

FACT SHEET

U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Illinois Farmers Will Benefit

September 2008

The U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (CTPA) provides increased access for Illinois' agricultural exports by making agricultural trade a two-way street and leveling the playing field with respect to third country competitors in the Colombian market. Already our largest market in South America, Colombia now holds even greater potential because it has agreed to immediately eliminate duties on 53 percent of current U.S. trade upon implementation of the agreement. The American Farm Bureau and over 40 other agricultural industry and farm groups strongly support the agreement by stating "the agreement will provide U.S. products exported to Colombia with the same duty-free access already granted to Colombian products exported to the U.S."

Exports of farm products boost Illinois's farm prices and income. Such exports support about 50,088 jobs both on and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. Agricultural exports amounted to \$4.7 billion and made an important contribution to Illinois' farm cash receipts in 2007 that totaled \$11.6 billion.

Soybeans and Products. In 2007, the United States exported \$175 million of soybeans and soybean products to Colombia. As the nation's second largest exporter of soybeans and products with farm cash receipts more than \$3.15 billion, Illinois soybean producers benefit from the CTPA.

- U.S. soybean producers currently face a system of variable levies (price band system) that results in tariffs as high as the World Trade Organization (WTO) ceiling of 150 percent. Colombia will immediately eliminate the price band system on U.S. imports.
- Colombia will immediately eliminate duties, currently ranging from 5–20 percent on soybeans, soybean meal and soybean flour.
- Colombia will eliminate duties within 5 years on crude soybean oil (currently 20 percent; 75 percent allowed by the WTO).
- Colombia will provide duty-free access for crude soybean oil by establishing a 31,200-ton duty-free tariff rate quota (TRQ) that will grow 4 percent, compounded annually. Colombia will phase out the 24-percent over-quota tariff over 10 years.
- *The American Soybean Association, the National Oilseed Processors Association, the American Feed Industry Association, and the Pet Food Institute publicly support the CTPA.*

Corn. In 2007, the United States exported \$500 million of yellow corn and \$16 million of white corn to Colombia. Illinois is the nation's second largest exporter of feed grains and corn, providing farm cash receipts of \$5.6 billion.

- Colombia will immediately eliminate its system of variable levies (price band system) facing U.S. exporters. Under the system, tariffs can be as high as the WTO ceiling of 195 percent on some corn products.
- Colombia will provide immediate duty-free access for yellow corn by establishing a 2.1-million-ton TRQ that grows 5 percent, compounded annually. Colombia will phase out the over-quota tariff over 12 years.
- Colombia will provide immediate duty-free access for white corn by establishing a 136,500-ton TRQ that grows 5 percent, compounded annually. Colombia will phase out the over-quota tariff over 12 years.
- Colombia will provide immediate duty-free access for animal feeds by establishing a 194,250-ton TRQ that grows 5 percent, compounded annually. Colombia will phase out the over-quota tariff over 12 years.
- All currently applied duties on all other corn products will be phased out within 10 years.
- *The Corn Refiners Association, the National Corn Growers Association, the National Grain and Feed Association, the North American Export Grain Association, the North American Millers' Association, the American Feed Industry Association, and the Pet Food Institute publicly support the CTPA.*

Pork. In 2007, the United States exported \$6.6 million of pork and pork products to Colombia. With hog production the state's third leading source of farm cash receipts, Illinois pork producers will benefit from the CTPA.

- U.S. pork producers currently face a system of variable levies (price band system) that results in tariffs as high as the WTO ceiling of 108 percent. Colombia will immediately eliminate the price band system on U.S. imports.
- Within 5 years, Colombia will phase out all duties, which are currently as high as 30 percent, on fresh, chilled and frozen pork as well as smoked and dried pork.
- Colombia will immediately eliminate duties on bacon and pork skin.
- All other pork tariffs will be eliminated within 5–10 years.
- Colombia agreed to continue to recognize the equivalence of the U.S. meat inspection and certification system to its own system.
- *The National Pork Producers Council; American Meat Institute; U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association; and the Pet Food Institute publicly support the CTPA.*

Beef. In 2007, the United States exported \$386,000 of beef and beef products to Colombia. Illinois' ranchers and beef industry provide the state's fourth largest source of cash receipts reaching \$730 million in 2007.

- Colombia will immediately eliminate its 80-percent duty (108 percent allowed by the WTO) on beef products of most importance to the U.S. beef industry—prime and choice cuts.
- U.S. exporters of standard quality beef cuts will enjoy immediate duty-free access through a 2,100-ton TRQ. The TRQ will grow by 5 percent, compounded annually.

Colombia will phase out the 80-percent out-of-quota tariff over 10 years after a 37.5-percent cut at the beginning of the first year of implementation.

- U.S. exporters of variety meats (offals) will immediately receive duty-free access under a 4,642-ton TRQ that will grow 5.5 percent, compounded annually. The 80-percent over-quota tariff will be phased out over 10 years.
- Colombia agreed to continue to recognize the equivalence of the U.S. meat inspection and certification system to its own system.
- Colombian exporters of beef to the United States will receive duty-free access under a 5,250-ton TRQ that will grow 5 percent, compounded annually. The United States will phase out its beef tariffs over 10 years. For those beef lines that are already duty free under the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act, the CTPA will continue the duty-free treatment.
- *The American Meat Institute; National Cattlemen's Beef Association; U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association; U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.; and Pet Food Institute publicly support the CTPA.*