



FACT SHEET

U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement

September 2009

The United States concluded free trade negotiations with Korea on April 1, 2007. This agreement is the most commercially significant free trade agreement the United States has negotiated in 15 years.

- The agreement will provide access to Korea's \$1 trillion economy and 49 million consumers.
- The United States is already Korea's top supplier of a broad variety of agricultural exports at \$5.6 billion (\$6.1 billion including fish and forest products) in 2008, making Korea the fifth largest export market for U.S. farm products. The United States is the No. 1 supplier to Korea of many farm products including almonds, fresh cherries, hides and skins, soybeans, corn, and wheat.
 - With the agreement, almost two-thirds of U.S. farm products exports will become duty free immediately. These include wheat, corn, soybeans for crushing, whey for feed use, hides and skins, cotton, cherries, pistachios, almonds, orange juice, grape juice, and wine.
 - Other farm products that will benefit from immediate duty-free access within new tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) and safeguards include skim and whole milk powder, whey for food use, cheese, dextrins and modified starches, barley, popcorn, soybeans for food use, dehydrated and table potatoes, honey, oranges, and hay.
 - Korea's 40-percent tariff on U.S. beef will be eliminated over 15 years. By 2014, more than 90 percent of pork exports will be duty-free.
- On the regulatory side, the agreement establishes an SPS Committee to enhance cooperation and consultation on sanitary and phytosanitary matters. The objectives of the committee are to achieve regulatory harmonization through the use of international standards and guidelines, including those of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
- The International Trade Commission predicts that this agreement, once fully implemented, could provide from \$1.9 to \$3.8 billion in additional farm exports for American agriculture. In addition, the free trade agreement with Korea is supported by more than 40 U.S. agricultural and food associations.

For questions about the U.S.-Korea Free Trade 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.