



Trade and Agriculture **What's at Stake for New England?**

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From Connecticut to Maine, New England produces agricultural products that are exported worldwide. In 2002, the region's total cash receipts from farming reached \$2 billion. The region's agricultural exports were estimated at \$281 million in 2002. Agricultural exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 4,172 jobs both on the farm and off the farm in food processing, transportation, and manufacturing.

The region's top five exports in 2002 were tobacco leaf, fruits, vegetables, wheat, and poultry.

World demand for agricultural products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If New England industries are to compete successfully for export opportunities in the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *more open access* to growing global markets.

New England Benefits From Trade Agreements

As a region, New England is already benefiting from a number of trade agreements. While there is still much to be done, examples of market opportunities include:

- Trade agreements benefit all Americans. The North American Free Trade Agreement and the Uruguay Round agreement have resulted in annual gains of between \$1,260 and \$2,040 for the average American family of four. Free trade and open markets provide real benefits: lower prices, more choices, and higher incomes.
- As one of the nation's larger commercial apple producers, New England benefits under the U.S.-Israel Agreement on Trade in Agricultural Products as Israel expands access to its apple market from 1,600 tons (duty-free quota) in 1995 to 1,855 tons in 2001. Currently, the quota remains at 1,855 tons but hopefully will be raised in future negotiations.