

Trade Promotion Authority

What's at Stake for Montana Agriculture?

July 2014

Montana's agricultural exports reached an estimated \$1.4 billion in 2012, up from \$1.2 billion in 2008. Montana's exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 9,200 jobs both on the farm and in related industries such as food processing, transportation, and manufacturing. Export sales accounted for approximately 38 percent of total Montana farm receipts in 2012.

Montana's top five agricultural exports in 2012 were:

1. Wheat – \$733 million
2. Grain products – \$116 million
3. Beef and veal – \$104 million
4. Hides and skins – \$52 million
5. Sugar and products – \$48 million

Overall, U.S. food and agricultural exports reached a record \$140.9 billion in fiscal 2013, supporting nearly one million American jobs. Global demand for these products is growing but so is competition among suppliers.

Trade Promotion Authority

Trade Promotion Authority is a critical tool in our efforts to seek approval of trade

agreements that support and create U.S. jobs while helping American agriculture to compete more successfully in an ever-expanding global marketplace. Right now, the United States is negotiating two critical trade agreements – the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP). Trade Promotion Authority will help ensure that America's farmers, ranchers, and food processors receive the greatest benefit from these negotiations.

Agriculture Benefits from Free Trade Agreements

In countries where the United States has free trade agreements, exports of U.S. food and agricultural products have grown significantly. Examples include our pacts with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea that took effect in 2012; CAFTA-DR, under which our free trade relationships with five Central American countries and the Dominican Republic began between 2006 and 2009; and the U.S.-Chile free trade agreement, which entered into force in 2004.

- **Beef** exports to Colombia and Panama doubled to almost \$20 million in 2013. Exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic grew from \$12 million in 2005 to \$64 million in 2013.
- **Wheat** exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic grew from \$257 million in 2005 to almost \$530 million in 2013. Wheat exports to Chile increased from \$36 million in 2003 to almost \$185 million in 2013.

