

# Trade Promotion Authority

## What's at Stake for Virginia Agriculture?

July 2014

Virginia agricultural exports reached an estimated \$1.1 billion in 2012, up from \$901 million in 2008. Virginia's exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 7,300 jobs both on the farm and in related industries such as food processing, transportation and manufacturing. Export sales accounted for approximately 31 percent of total Virginia farm receipts in 2012.

Virginia's top five agricultural exports in 2012 were:

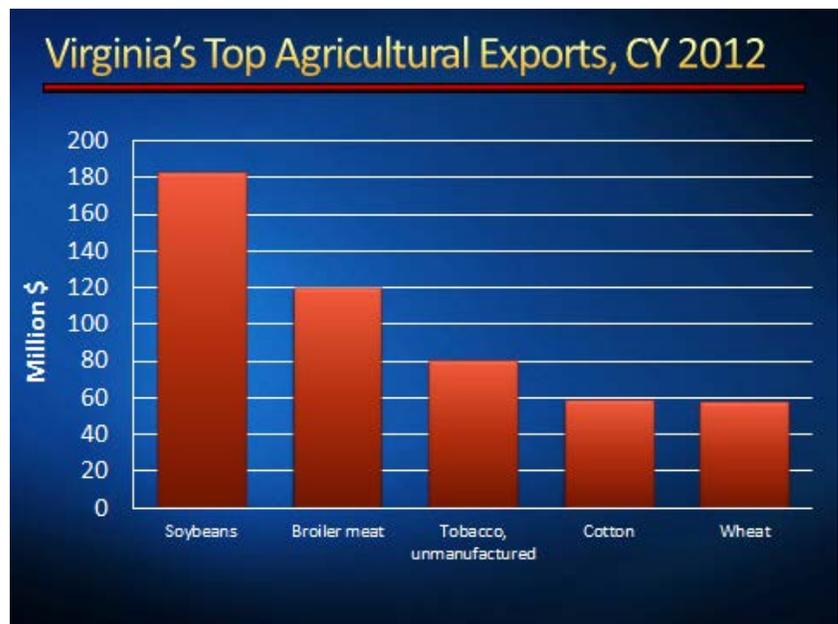
1. Soybeans — \$183 million
2. Broiler meat— \$120 million
3. Tobacco, unmanufactured — \$81 million
4. Cotton— \$59 million
5. Wheat — \$58 million

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.

- **Soybeans, soymeal, and soy oil** exports to Korea, Colombia, and Panama increased from \$593 million in 2011 to nearly \$770 million in 2013.
- **Poultry** exports to Colombia and Panama grew from \$43 million in 2011 to more than \$72 million in 2013. Exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic increased from \$61million in 2005 to nearly \$200 million in 2013. Similarly, exports to Chile grew from less than \$1 million in 2003 to \$72 million in 2013.
- **Cotton** exports to the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic increased from \$63 million in 2005 to almost \$110 million in 2013.

For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service, 202.720.7115 or [LPA@fas.usda.gov](mailto:LPA@fas.usda.gov)