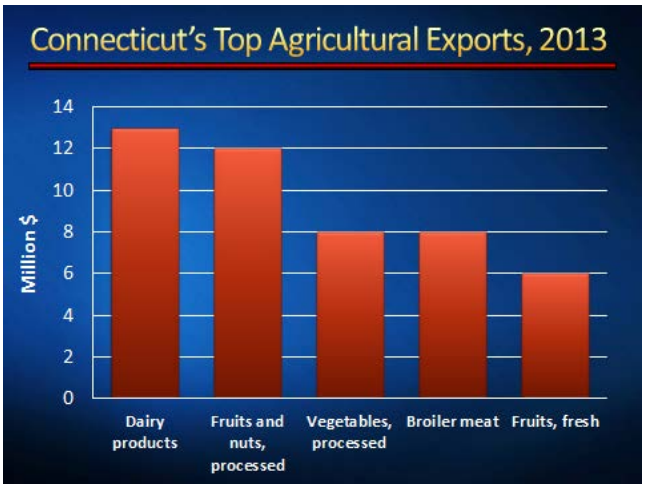
Trade Promotion Authority

What's at Stake for Connecticut Agriculture?

February 2015

Connecticut's agricultural exports reached an estimated $364 million in 2013*, up from $258 million in 2009. Connecticut's exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 2,800 jobs both on the farm and in related industries such as food processing, transportation, and manufacturing.



*State-level export data for 2014 will not be available until October 2015.

Connecticut's top five agricultural exports in 2013 were:

1. Dairy products – $13 million
2. Fruits and nuts, processed – $12 million
3. Vegetables, processed – $8 million
4. Broiler meat – $8 million
5. Fruits, fresh – $6 million

Nationwide, U.S. food and agricultural exports reached a record $150.5 billion in 2014, supporting more than one million American jobs. Global demand for these products is growing but so is competition among suppliers.

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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.

- **Dairy** exports to Korea, Colombia, and Panama grew from $265 million in 2011 to $526 million in 2014. Dairy exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic increased from $68 million in 2005 to $202 million in 2014. Dairy exports to Chile rose from $3 million in 2003 to $61 million in 2014. In addition, U.S. dairy exports to Singapore increased from $8 million in 2003 to more than $100 million in 2014 thanks to the free trade agreement that took effect in 2004.

- **Fresh and processed fruit** exports to Korea, Colombia, and Panama increased from $367 million in 2011 to $503 million in 2014. Exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic grew from $47 million in 2005 to $129 million in 2014.

- **Tree nut** exports to Korea, Colombia, and Panama increased from $207 million in 2011 to $388 million in 2014.

For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service, 202.720.7115 or LPA@fas.usda.gov