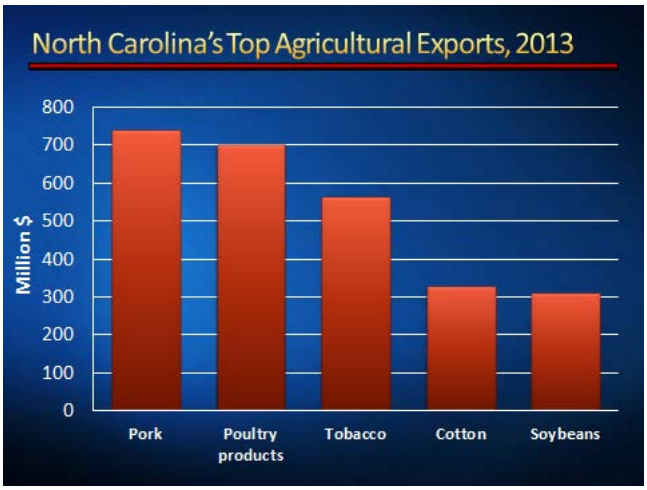
Trade Promotion Authority

What's at Stake for North Carolina Agriculture?

March 2015

North Carolina's agricultural exports reached an estimated $3.7 billion in 2013*, up from $2.7 billion in 2009. North Carolina's exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 28,200 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.

North Carolina's top five agricultural exports in 2013 were:

1. Pork – $739 million
2. Poultry and eggs – $699 million
3. Tobacco - $565 million
4. Cotton – $328 million
5. Soybeans – $312 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.

- **Pork** exports to Colombia and Panama increased from $42 million in 2011 to $161 million in 2014. Pork exports to the Central America and the Dominican Republic grew 466 percent from $29 million in 2005 to almost $164 million in 2014.

- **Poultry and egg** exports to Colombia and Panama grew from roughly $44 million in 2011 to $80 million in 2014. Exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic increased from roughly $70 million in 2005 to $211 million in 2014. Similarly, exports to Chile grew from less than $1 million in 2003 to roughly $88 million in 2014

- **Cotton** exports to the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic increased from $63 million in 2005 to $112 million in 2014.

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