



AgTrade 2005 WTO Policy Statement

The U.S. agricultural and food sector continues to support the WTO Doha Development Agenda as a means to reform agricultural and food trade policy, promote global food security through open trade, and increase trade liberalization in the agriculture and food sector. U.S. policy and process objectives should include:

MARKET ACCESS:

- A harmonizing formula for reducing agricultural tariffs that will cut high tariffs more than low tariffs and result in substantial, commercially meaningful improvements in access in all products to all markets.
- A limited number of “sensitive” products as defined in the Framework Agreement and a requirement that market access for such products be substantially improved through a combination of tariff reductions and tariff-rate quota (TRQ) expansion commitments.
- The elimination of all in-quota duties.
- Improved TRQ administration.
- Establishment of a cap on tariffs.
- Elimination of complex tariffs; i.e., ensuring that tariffs are either *ad valorem* or specific.
- Continued pursuit of sectoral negotiations.

DOMESTIC SUPPORT:

- Reductions in total trade-distorting domestic support and other U.S. concessions commensurate with the achievement of U.S. objectives in market access and export competition.
- A formula that harmonizes the levels of total trade-distorting support. Those countries with higher Amber box allowances should cut their subsidies by a greater degree.
- Blue box criteria as set out in the July 2004 Framework Agreement.
- No caps on, or excessively restrictive criteria defining eligibility for, non-trade-distorting (Green Box) support, to allow countries to move away from trade-distorting government support programs.

EXPORT COMPETITION:

- The elimination of export subsidies.
- The tightening of rules to prevent circumvention of export subsidy commitments and apply export subsidy rules equally to developing and developed countries.

- The elimination of monopoly powers for export state trading enterprises (STEs); the elimination of government subsidies, financing, and underwriting of losses with respect to the export activities of such entities; and the adoption of a set of disciplines to ensure operational transparency and the end of discriminatory pricing practices.
- Disciplines on official export credit and credit related programs should apply to all members. Reductions in the subsidy component of existing programs that do not comply with the disciplines established should be implemented in a parallel manner with the phase-out of export subsidies and the elimination of monopoly powers of state trading enterprises.
- Disciplines on other export measures with equivalent trade distorting effects, including the elimination of differential export taxes.
- Disciplines on food aid only to the extent necessary to prevent such aid from distorting commercial markets; i.e., no prohibition on government to government food aid and no requirement that aid be in the form of cash only.
- Enhanced food security for importing nations by commitments not to restrict or prohibit exports of agricultural products.

OTHER KEY OBJECTIVES:

- A “single undertaking” in the agricultural negotiations that encompasses all sectors (i.e. no early harvests).
- Certain more advanced developing countries, particularly exporting developing countries, must assume obligations similar to developed countries in all three pillars.
- No extension of geographical indications protections beyond wines and spirits.
- Ensuring market access for products of biotechnology and that the regulation of these products is based solely on science.
- Establishing WTO rules for developing countries to graduate to full WTO obligations using objective economic criteria.

Altria Group, Inc.

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Feed Industry Association

American Meat Institute

American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.

American Potato Trade Alliance

American Seed Trade Association

American Soybean Association

American Sugar Alliance

Animal Health Institute

Archer Daniels Midland Company

Biotechnology Industry Organization

Blue Diamond Growers

Bunge North America, Inc.

Campbell Soup Company

Cargill, Incorporated
ConAgra Foods
Corn Refiners Association
Food Products Association
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Idaho Barley Commission
International Dairy Foods Association
Louis Dreyfus Corporation
Monsanto Company
National Barley Growers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grain Trade Council
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderers Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
North American Export Grain Association
North American Millers' Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Oregon Potato Commission
Pet Food Institute
Sweetener Users Association
The Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
United Egg Association
United Egg Producers
United Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Association
United States Dry Bean Council
USA Rice Federation
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Grains Council
U.S. Hides, Skin and Leather Association
U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.
U.S. Rice Producers Association
U.S. Wheat Associates
Wheat Export Trade Education Committee