TRADE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

State departments of agriculture promote their states’ agricultural commodities and value-added food and agricultural products in foreign markets. State departments of agriculture lead trade missions around the world, as well as trade shows both domestically and internationally to create and enhance export opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and food manufacturers.

Food & Agricultural Sector Depends on Trade
As crop prices and farm incomes are down, international trade is even more important to farmers and ranchers. USDA has estimated that each dollar in ag exports generates an additional $1.27 in U.S. economic activity, and ag exports support more than one million full-time civilian jobs, including 751,000 jobs in the nonfarm sector. Thus, food and agricultural exports generate additional on-farm income, but they also support thousands of jobs along the supply chain in both rural and metropolitan areas.

North American Exports Are Critical
The North American Free Trade Agreement has provided U.S. agricultural producers and food manufacturers with unparalleled access to the Canadian and Mexican markets, which have now long stood as two of the top three exports markets for food and agricultural products. Successful ratification and implementation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement as well as a resolution to the Section 232 tariff issue is crucial to ensure our North American neighbors remain our closest partners.

The U.S. Must Pursue New & Emerging Markets
Our competitors are not standing still as they ink new trade agreements in key markets like Japan. When foreign competitors secure preferential market access for their producers, it puts U.S. agriculture at a competitive disadvantage. The U.S. should aggressively pursue bilateral and regional trade agreements, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, to lower tariffs while also writing the “rules of the road” for international trade.

Producers Need Resolution to Ongoing Trade Disputes
For many years, U.S. agriculture and food exports have faced unjustified tariff and non-tariff barriers in markets around the world. NASDA supports efforts to tear down trade barriers and level the playing field for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses. At the same time, ongoing trade disputes have led to retaliatory tariffs that are negatively impacting U.S. producers and harming the farm economy. The U.S. should resolve trade disputes as quickly as possible, while avoiding further damage to U.S. agriculture and increasing market access for U.S. products.