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During recent times we have been exposed to many comments concerning U.S.A. trade policies and numerous trade agreements with trading partners around the world. Trade, a two way street, is a vital part of the U.S.A. economy.

Agricultural trade, the export of agriculture commodities, is a large part of the U.S.A. farm economy. Also, agricultural exports are a major segment to the U.S.A. balance of trade thats in the billions of dollars. Agriculture is the one segment that continues to show a positive return or a strong trade surplus.

We are most appreciative of the U.S.A. farmers/ranchers who raise abundant supplies of food, fiber, fuel and shelter for american families and allows for agriculture commodities to be exported to the other 95% of the worlds population beyond the borders of the U.S.A. and represents 80% of the purchasing power.

These are but a few examples of U.S.A. agriculture exports that influence our agricultural economy and other industries such as transportation, energy, manufacturing and services.

Beef production for 2017 is forecast at 26.2 billion pounds, up 4.4 % from 2016, due to recent expansion of cow herds. Exports are estimated to approach 2.6 billion pounds, up slightly at .1 billion pounds from 2016. Beef supplies for american families are forecast to be 56.6 pounds per person, an increase of 1.2 pounds. The leading markets for american beef and beef products are Mexico, Canada, Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong.

The 2017 pork production is forecast to reach 25.8 billion pounds, up some .8 billion pounds. Exports are estimated at 5.4 billion pounds. Exports are estimated at 5.4 billion pounds, up .2 billion pounds. Twenty percent of U.S.A. raised pork is exported to markets in Mexico, Japan, China, Canada and South Korea. The pork supplies for american families are estimated at 51 pounds per person, up 1.1 pounds from 2016.

U.S.A. red meat and poultry production is forecast to increase 8% during 2017 to a total of 218 pounds per person.

Corn and corn products account for 9% of agricultural exports. Livestock feed continues to be the U.S.A.'s number one use for corn followed by ethanol. The 2016 corn crop was pegged at 15.1 billion bushels fro 86.7 million acres, up 11% from 2015.

Soybeans have been strongly supported by China's demand, the number one market for U.S.A. soybeans. Twenty-one perecent of U.S.A. soybeans and soybean products are exported with 63% of that going to China. The 2016 soybean crop was 4.31 billion bushels from 82.7 million acres.

Wheat and wheat products account for 5% of U.S.A. agricultural exports. Approximately 50% of U.S.A. raised wheat goes to export markets in Japan, Mexico, South Korea and Philippines.

Rice: 50% of U.S.A. raised rice finds its way to export markets in Mexico, Central America, Caribbean, Middle East, China, Japan, and South Korea.

Cotton: 75% of U.S.A. raised cotton is exported. The top markets being China, Vietnam, Mexico, Bangladesh, Tawiwan, Thailand, and Indonesia.

YES !! American agriculture continues to be an un-sung partner in our nations economy. The innovative technologies developed and implemented by U.S.A. farmers/ranchers allows for these levels of production to be achieved. Exports represent a growth opportunity for agricultural produce and products. Our farmers/ranchers leads the world, "Only In America."

References: U.S.D.A. National Agriculture Statistics Service and Economic Research Service

Other articles of interest
!- [Farmers](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/farmers.docx)
2- [Greenhouse Gas and Sustainability](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/greenhouse.docx)
3-[The No Pesticide Claim](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/no_pesticide.docx)
4- [Tennessee Agriculture's Top 10](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/tennessee_agriculture_top_ten_135_427_thoughts.docx)
5- [Earth Day](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/32714_earth_day_comments.doc)
6- [The American Food Dollar](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/the_america_food_dollar.docx)
7[- Hat Man](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/the_hat_man.docx)

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