

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER**

TRADE ACTION NETWORK

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO REACH AGREEMENT ON CROSS BORDER TRUCKING DISPUTE

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Yesterday, the United States and Mexico signed a memorandum of understanding concerning Mexican truck access to the United States. With the agreement, effective July 8, Mexico's punitive customs duties on 99 U.S. products will be cut in half. The remaining tariffs will be removed later this summer within five days after the first carrier is inspected and certified by the Department of Transportation to participate in the trucking program.

Mexico is Texas' No.1 international trading partner with \$73 billion in total Texas goods and services exported south of the border in 2010. Through April 2011, year-to-date exports from Texas to Mexico have totaled \$27 billion.

"Trade equals jobs and this agreement to reduce the trade tariffs on U.S. and Texas products entering Mexico will help level the playing field and remove the unfair burden placed on the backs of our hardworking farmers and ranchers," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples said. "In an effort to ensure our highways and drivers remain safe, U.S. inspectors must be vigilant in establishing and ensuring stringent safety protocols are fully enforced as Mexican trucks cross our border."

According to a USDA report, retaliatory tariffs reduced the total value of U.S. agricultural exports by \$240 million from March of 2010 to February of 2011. Mexico's list of retaliatory tariffs has a direct affect on \$190 million in Texas agriculture products, including pork, wine, peanuts, onions and dozens of other commodities.

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