

**Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)  
eNEWS - 03/10/2010: News, Conference Registration, and Classes**

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## **AFDO NEWS**

### **Register for the 114th Annual Educational Conference**

Conference/workshop programs should be arriving at each members registered mailing address within the next week. That means it is time to register for the 114th Annual Educational Conference!

**What:** 114th AFDO Annual Educational Conference, Co-sponsored by the Central Atlantic States Association (CASA)

**When:** Saturday, June 19th - Wednesday, June 23rd (includes Saturday workshop)

**Where:** Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia

This year's theme is "2010: The Decade for Integration."

Speakers from each level of the regulatory community, local, state, and federal; and associate industry will share their perspectives.

Here are some helpful conference links:

- To view the program please visit <https://www.afdo.org/conferences/2010Conference.cfm>
- To download a conference registration form please visit <https://www.afdo.org/conferences/2010Conference.cfm>
- To reserve your hotel room please visit <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1003105617&key=DB776>
- Or you can call 888-627-8042 and ask for the Association of Food and Drug Officials' Room Block

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### **IFPTI & AFDO Accepting Applications to Attend NSF Plan Review and Food Equipment Standards Courses (DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 12)**

#### ***Plan Review for Food Establishments - April 28-29, 2010, Battle Creek, MI***

This two-day course represents the latest plan review information in a dynamic and interactive format. Whether you are a regulator or an industry professional hoping to build knowledge of the plan review process, the course will provide key information that ensures accordance with current

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines. More information is available at [http://www.afdo.org/training/NSF\\_plan\\_review.cfm](http://www.afdo.org/training/NSF_plan_review.cfm).

***Food Equipment Standards - April 30, 2010, Battle Creek, MI***

This one-day course is designed for product engineers and designers, manufacturing managers, regulatory compliance officers, quality assurance staff, sales professionals, and regulatory agency personnel to better understand the compliance requirements and NSF policies for NSF/ANSI Standards 2, 4, 7 & 51. More information is available at [http://www.afdo.org/training/NSF\\_Food\\_Equipment.cfm](http://www.afdo.org/training/NSF_Food_Equipment.cfm).

**Applications must be received by the AFDO office no later than Friday, March 12, 2010. Travel-related expenses will be reimbursed for all selected regulatory course participants according to AFDO's policies.**

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**Publication of the Month: Food Emergency Pocket Guide**

This pocket guide is intended for use by field staff in food regulatory programs. It is a "ready reference" to deal with some of the common and uncommon - emergencies dealt with by food regulators. These emergencies can be due to foodborne outbreaks, natural disasters, accidental contamination of food supplies, and willful acts of contamination

There are sections of this guide that consist of advice for consumers; these sections may also be useful reference materials for regulators.

Please download a publication order form to order your copy today! Go to: <https://www.afdo.org/Resources/Publications.cfm>

Price: \$8 each

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**Laws and Regulations Committee Update**

The Laws and Regulations Committee is responsible for the continuous review, up-dating, and development of model laws and regulations so that the AFDO goal of uniform food, drug and other consumer protection laws is achieved.

Below is the most recent Laws and Regulations Committee Update.

***FDA***

FDA Calls on Food Companies to Correct Labeling Violations; FDA Commissioner Issues an Open Letter to the Industry

(<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm202814.htm>)

Front of Package Labeling Initiative

(<http://www.fda.gov/Food/LabelingNutrition/ucm202726.htm> )

FDA Investigation Reveals Salmonella Tennessee at Plant that Makes Flavor Enhancers for Food Processors and Other Distributors

(<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm203067.htm>)

Hydrolyzed Vegetable Protein Product Recall (

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/MajorProductRecalls/HVP/default.htm>)

FDA Update on the Investigation into the Salmonella Montevideo Outbreak - March 5, 2010

(<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm203344.htm>)

For Consumers: The HVP Recall

(<http://www.fda.gov/Food/NewsEvents/WhatsNewinFood/ucm202989.htm>)

## ***NOP***

The National Organic Program will be conducting training sessions on the Access to Pasture final rule. The next one-day session is scheduled for March 24, 2010 in Albany, NY. Accredited certifying agents and other interested parties are welcome to register for the training. Learn more about the upcoming training sessions here

(<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&navID=NationalOrganicProgram&leftNav=NationalOrganicProgram&page=NOPAccessToPasture&description=Pasture%20Rulemaking>).

## ***USDA***

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Addresses the School Nutrition Association, Issues Call to Action for Child Nutrition Stakeholders

([http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_1OB/.cmd/ad/ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6\\_2\\_1UH/ce/7\\_2\\_5JM/p/5\\_2\\_4TQ/th/J\\_2\\_9D/s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_1OB?PC\\_7\\_2\\_5JM\\_contentid=2010%2F03%2F0096.xml&PC\\_7\\_2\\_5JM\\_parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&PC\\_7\\_2\\_5JM\\_navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB/.cmd/ad/ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6_2_1UH/ce/7_2_5JM/p/5_2_4TQ/th/J_2_9D/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?PC_7_2_5JM_contentid=2010%2F03%2F0096.xml&PC_7_2_5JM_parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&PC_7_2_5JM_navid=NEWS_RELEASE))

FSIS to Discuss Product Tracing Efforts Related to E. coli O157:H7 at March 10 Public Meeting

([http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/NR\\_030310\\_01/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_030310_01/index.asp))

FSIS Notice 12-10 (<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISNotices/12-10.pdf>): Export Library Revisions for February 2010

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Visits California, Discusses Obama Administration Efforts to Improve School Meals

([http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6\\_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2010%2F03%2F0101.xml&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2010%2F03%2F0101.xml&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS_RELEASE) )

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Merrigan Highlights The 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' Initiative at Utah State University

([http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6\\_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2010%2F03%2F0102.xml&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2010%2F03%2F0102.xml&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS_RELEASE) )

USDA Grants Protection to Sixteen New Plant Varieties

(<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateU&navID=&page=Newsroom&resultType=Details&dDocName=STELPRDC5083016&dID=127972&wf=false&description=USDA+Grants+Protection+to+Sixteen+New+Plant+Varieties+&topNav=Home&leftNav=&rightNav1=LatestReleaseshome&rightNav2=> )

USDA Grants Protection to Eleven New Plant Varieties

(<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateU&navID=&page=Newsroom&resultType=Details&dDocName=STELPRDC5083015&dID=127970&wf=false&description=USDA+Grants+Protection+to+Eleven+New+Plant+Varieties+&topNav=Home&leftNav=&rightNav1=LatestReleaseshome&rightNav2=> )

U.S. and Russia Agree on Reopening Russian Pork Market to U.S.

([http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6\\_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/.d/1/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2010%2F03%2F0103.xml&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE#7 2 5JM](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/.d/1/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2010%2F03%2F0103.xml&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS_RELEASE#7 2 5JM) )

USDA to Issue Partial 2009-Crop Counter-Cyclical Payments for Upland Cotton and Peanuts; No Final 2008-Crop Counter-Cyclical Payments for Rice

([http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6\\_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/.d/1/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2010%2F03%2F0106.xml&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE#7 2 5JM](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/.d/1/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2010%2F03%2F0106.xml&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS_RELEASE#7 2 5JM) )

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Highlights Farm to School Initiatives in Montana

([http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6\\_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/.d/1/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2010%2F03%2F0107.xml&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE#7 2 5JM](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/.d/1/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2010%2F03%2F0107.xml&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS_RELEASE#7 2 5JM) )

USDA Celebrates National School Breakfast Week

([http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6\\_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/.d/0/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM\\_contentid=2010%2F03%2F0111.xml&PC 7 2 5JM\\_parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM\\_navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE#7 2 5JM](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/%21ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6_2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/.d/0/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM_contentid=2010%2F03%2F0111.xml&PC 7 2 5JM_parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM_navid=NEWS_RELEASE#7 2 5JM))

Ohio Firm Recalls Ready-To-Eat Bacon Base Product Due to Possible Salmonella Contamination

(<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall 015 2010 Release/index.asp>)

Registration Requirements and Annual Reporting

([http://archive.gipsa.usda.gov/psp/registration\\_requirements.pdf](http://archive.gipsa.usda.gov/psp/registration_requirements.pdf))

Texas Firm Recalls Ready-To-Eat Beef Taquito and Chicken Quesadilla Products due to Possible Salmonella Contamination

(<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall 017 2010 Release/index.asp>)

Texas Firm Recalls Ready-To-Eat Beef Product due to Possible Salmonella Contamination

(<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall 016 2010 Release/index.asp>)

USDA Finalizes Inspection and User Fee Requirements for Canada

(<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2010/03/canufee.shtml>)

USDA Targets Improvement of School Meal Enrollment with Aid to States

(<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/PressReleases/2010/0114.htm>)

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## FDA NEWS

### **Public Workshop: FDA, FSIS, CDC Collaborate on Methods to Measure Success of Food Safety Programs**

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will host a joint public workshop on how best to measure progress in reducing foodborne illnesses on March 30, in Washington, D.C.

The President's Food Safety Working Group has emphasized the need for improved metrics for evaluating the government's efforts to prevent foodborne illness. The workshop will focus on current methods for evaluating food safety progress, the methodologic and data challenges involved, and the potential for improved metrics.

"Being able to draw links between what we're doing to keep the food supply safe and the frequency of human illness is crucial for gauging the effectiveness of our programs - what changes are needed, and in what areas," said FDA Deputy Commissioner for Foods Michael Taylor.

"To make our food safer, we must know as quickly as possible which foods are making people ill and why," said USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety Jerold R. Mande. "This meeting will help us develop the specific measures we need to see which policies work best to improve food safety."

The public workshop will include explanations, by CDC, of how rates of foodborne illness are estimated for various purposes; for example, to determine overall rates of foodborne illness and rates for specific pathogens. FDA, FSIS, and a state representative will describe other measurements they use to gauge the success of policies and other interventions for reducing foodborne illness.

"The data we collect and analyze can provide critical insights to guide our food safety programs; all stakeholders should understand how this information is best applied to advance food safety in the United States." Dr. Rima Khabbaz, Deputy Director of Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information about the workshop, go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-4110.pdf1>.

To register on-line, visit:

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/NewsEvents/WorkshopsMeetingsConferences/ucm201102.htm2>

On-line pre-registration ends March 24.

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## **FDA Approves Name Change for Heartburn Drug Kapidex**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a name change for the heartburn drug Kapidex (dexlansoprazole) to avoid confusion with two other medications - Casodex and Kadian. Effective in late April 2010, Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America Inc. will market Kapidex under the new name Dexilant.

Since Kapidex was approved in January 2009, there have been reports of dispensing errors because of confusion with the drugs Casodex (bicalutamide) and Kadian (morphine sulfate), which have very different uses from Kapidex and from each other.

Kapidex is a proton pump inhibitor used to treat heartburn and other conditions by reducing the amount of acid produced in the stomach.

Casodex, marketed by AstraZeneca, is used to treat men with advanced prostate cancer. Kadian, distributed by Actavis Kadian LLC, is an opioid analgesic used to treat pain.

"The FDA is pleased to have worked with Takeda to take swift and responsible steps to change the name of this product in the interest of patient safety," said Janet Woodcock, M.D., director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

The FDA evaluates new drug names before a product is approved to minimize confusion with existing drugs. Sometimes unexpected name confusions can occur once the product goes to market.

To improve this safety process, the FDA has issued a new guidance for industry titled Contents of a Complete Submission for the Evaluation of Proprietary Names. The guidance explains what information should be submitted to help in the evaluation of a proposed proprietary drug or biologic name, and to ensure compliance with other requirements for labeling and promotion.

These efforts are part of the agency's Safe Use Initiative which was launched in November 2009. The goal of this initiative is to reduce preventable medical errors through collaboration with public and private institutions.

There will be no changes made to Kapidex other than its name. Health care professionals and other individuals responsible for ordering, stocking, and billing for the product should be aware that Dexilant will have a new National Drug Code (NDC) number associated with the product.

Individuals and health care professionals who have questions about the name change should contact Takeda at 877-TAKEDA-7.

Medication errors involving Dexilant or any other medications should be reported to the FDA's MedWatch program online at <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch> (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>)1<[http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm%20\)1](http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm%20)1)> .

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## **USDA NEWS**

### **Secretary Vilsack Outlines USDA Efforts to Revitalize Rural America and Increase Agricultural Exports**

(WASHINGTON, March 5, 2010) - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today discussed USDA's work to strengthen the American agriculture economy and revitalize rural communities in the keynote speech at the 2010 Commodity Classic in Anaheim, Calif. Vilsack focused on the USDA's efforts to increase exports of agricultural products to help American farmers, ranchers, and workers.

"USDA's continued work to expand trade opportunities for America's hard-working farmers and ranchers will play an important role in our effort to rebuild rural communities across the country," said Vilsack.

"Increased trade will not only create important income opportunities for producers, but also the off-farm jobs that are so critical for revitalizing rural America."

In the State of the Union address, the President announced a National Export Initiative to coordinate federal efforts to help rebuild the economy by increasing export opportunities. The new roadmap announced today will help achieve the President's goal of doubling all U.S. exports in the next five years.

While USDA has traditionally looked at agricultural trading partners by geographic region, under the new trade strategy outlined by Vilsack, USDA looks at countries based on their position on an agricultural market continuum, which enables tailored strategies to increase exports to each individual market. The continuum goes from fragile markets/food security states, to potential growth markets, to restricted access markets, to rapid growth markets, to developed consumer markets. The new strategy will improve collaboration among USDA agencies and guide priorities for international staffing, foreign assistance, and agricultural research.

For example, in potential growth markets, USDA programs will now emphasize building the institutional and human capacity needed to support increased trade, while in restricted access markets, USDA efforts are designed to remove trade barriers. In rapid growth markets, USDA will now emphasize using a full range of programs to build trade capacity, remove trade barriers and develop new markets for U.S. products.

The annual value of U.S. agricultural exports is rapidly increasing. 10 years ago the annual value was less than \$50 billion and this year, even with the sharp global economic downturn, USDA estimates agricultural exports to reach \$100 billion, the second highest level ever. USDA will continue to push hard for an open rules-based international trading system that will benefit both consumers and suppliers of agricultural products around the world.

USDA launched a new website and social media tools at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov) (<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=39935734&msgid=188415&act=3JMA&c=590864&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.usda.gov%2F>), designed to enhance discussions and facilitate innovation for challenges facing rural America. For more information about FAS's market development programs, contact the Office of Trade Programs at (202) 720-4327, or visit [www.fas.usda.gov/mos/marketdev.asp](http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/marketdev.asp) (<http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/marketdev.asp>) (<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=39935734&msgid=188415&act=3JMA&c=590864&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fas.usda.gov%2Fmos%2Fmarketdev.asp>)

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## **FSIS Extends Comment Period on Nutrition Labeling**

On Dec. 18, 2009, FSIS published a supplemental proposed rule (<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2005-0018.htm> ) entitled, "Nutrition Labeling of Single-Ingredient Products and Ground or Chopped Meat and Poultry Products" (<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2005-0018.pdf>).

The comment period on the rule was scheduled to end on Feb. 16, 2010.

In response to multiple requests, FSIS extended the comment period for 30 days, to March 18, 2010.

All submissions must reference docket number FSIS-2005-0018.

Submissions can be made through the federal e-rulemaking portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) <<http://www.regulations.gov>> or sent to the

Docket Clerk  
USDA, FSIS, Room 2-2127  
George Washington Carver Center  
5601 Sunnyside Ave.  
Beltsville, MD 20705.

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## NASDA NEWS

### **Brazil Announces Retaliatory Tariffs on 102 U.S. Products**

On Monday, Brazil announced its intention to impose tariffs on 102 U.S. products. The import duty on raw cotton is raised from 6 percent to 100 percent. Grapes, cherries, potatoes, wheat and tomato products are also among the products listed. The U.S. grape, cherry and potato industries have already been severely impacted by the Mexican tariffs imposed after Congress eliminated the NAFTA Mexican Trucking Program.

In a statement released yesterday afternoon, U.S. Trade Representative spokeswoman Nefeterius McPherson said, "We are disappointed to learn that Brazil's authorities have decided to proceed with countermeasures against U.S. trade in the WTO Cotton dispute. [The] USTR is working to reach a solution to the issues in this dispute without Brazil resorting to countermeasures and we continue to prefer a negotiated solution."

(Contact: Amy Mann ( <mailto:amy@nasda.org> )) Courtesy of NASDA

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## STATE NEWS

### Virginia Breaks Record for Agricultural Exports in 2009

Governor Bob McDonnell announced today a continued increase in agricultural exports from Virginia. The Governor made the announcement during his remarks at the 2nd International Virginia Agricultural Trade Conference in Norfolk. The Commonwealth exported a record \$2.3 billion in agricultural products in 2009, a five percent increase from 2008, and a 28% increase over the last two years. This increase comes despite distressed economic conditions worldwide and in the midst of an overall national decrease in agricultural exports.

Last year's figures top the previous record of \$2.2 billion in exports set in 2008. The 2008 figures were an increase from 2007's \$1.8 billion in exports.

Speaking about today's announcement, Governor McDonnell remarked, "Agriculture is Virginia's number one industry and absolutely critical to our economic vitality. Increased exports mean more jobs and economic growth in Virginia. In two years, during the worst economic conditions in decades, Virginia's agricultural exports grew by half a billion dollars. As Virginia's overseas markets continue to grow, our farmers and agribusinesses will continue to create new jobs and retain existing ones. In today's economy, that is absolutely crucial."

Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Haymore commented, "Today's news is a testament to our hard working farmers and producers who are producing some of the world's finest products. It's also a tribute to our outstanding processors and manufacturers, our strategic mid-Atlantic location, and our world-class port system, which allows for our agricultural products to move quickly and efficiently into the global marketplace."

Virginia's success breaks with national export trends. While overall agricultural exports from the United States are down 14 percent, Virginia agricultural exports grew by \$100 million in 2009.

Virginia's growth put the Commonwealth in the top ten nationally of agricultural exporting states, ranking the state ninth in 2009, up from 11th in 2008.

The International Agricultural Trade Conference was hosted by the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, Virginia Port Authority, Virginia Tech, and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The conference was designed to explore the challenges and opportunities for expanded exports of local, regional, and national agricultural goods.

(Contact: Elaine Lidholm,  
Elaine.Lidholm@VDACS.Virginia.Gov<<mailto:Elaine.Lidholm@VDACS.Virginia.Gov>> )  
Courtesy of NASDA

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**DE: Healthier Kids, More Successful Farmers - A Healthy Economic Partnership**

In one of his major policy initiatives to simultaneously promote healthy eating and help Delaware agriculture, Governor Jack Markell formalized a partnership among three agencies to connect Delaware farmers and its agricultural industry to Delaware schools and facilities.

Three agencies signed a Memorandum of Agreement: the Delaware Department of Agriculture, Department of Education and Department of Health and Social Services, confirmed a partnership to encourage healthy eating, healthy lifestyles, health education, consumption of local food products, and nutrition education. The agreement will also lead to the establishment of school gardens and improve the nutritional value of food products consumed in public schools and facilities.

By incorporating locally grown food into purchasing, Delaware can connect the agriculture industry to 123,000 children that attend Delaware's public schools. That's 22 million meals served over the 180-day school year. Thirty-six percent of children and youth in Delaware are either overweight or at risk of being overweight.

By connecting the agricultural community to the state's largest agency, DHSS, agriculture connects to residents of four long-term care facilities, the Delaware Psychiatric Center and other food programs and services.

"This is one of those win-wins we are always striving for: creating business opportunities for our farm community while making it easier for kids in our schools and persons in our public facilities and food programs to access locally grown and healthy foods," said Markell.

"My administration is focused on finding ways to help our industries thrive, keep people employed and employ even more Delawareans."

Delaware has 2500 farmers and 200-300 of them are in the vegetable and fruit business. Partnership opportunities exist in fresh, frozen, canned, and pickled products.

"I am more than pleased with today's signing. Our children will benefit and our farmers will benefit," said Delaware Agriculture Secretary Ed Kee. "I look at this as the first step. We want to extend the program to all of our state facilities. I also plan to work with our vegetable processors such as Vlasic, Pictsweet, Hanover, and the poultry processors to have them become part of the program in the future." (Contact: Brian Selander, 302-252-7860) Courtesy of NASDA

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