

# Trade Notes...

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## Philippines Approves Biotechnology Guidelines

On April 3, the Philippine Secretary of Agriculture signed guidelines for field-testing and commercial sale of biotechnology-derived corn seed. The Philippines is the first country in Southeast Asia to pass such regulations. The guidelines ensure continued access to the Philippines for an estimated \$400 million worth of U.S. commodities and products from biotechnology.

## EU Begins Pork Promotion in Japan

Pork exporters from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Denmark have received \$650,000 from the European Union (EU) for bacon promotions in Japan, according to the U.S. agricultural attaché in the Hague. However, due to foot-and-mouth disease status, only Denmark is currently eligible to export pork to Japan. This is the first EU-funded pork market promotion outside the EU. It is generic, but products carry an EU logo. The United States and Denmark compete head-to-head in the Japanese market, each exporting about \$2 million worth of bacon in 2001.

## U.S. Horticultural Trade Increase

From 1991 to 2001, U.S. exports of horticultural products expanded by 66 percent, rising from \$6.6 billion to \$11 billion. By contrast, U.S. imports of horticultural products doubled from \$8.6 billion to \$17.2 billion. Key factors behind the rise in imports include the relatively open U.S. market, a strong dollar during part of the period, U.S. population growth and rising incomes.

## New Standard for Wood Packing Material

In March, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) agreed to a new standard for wood packing material used in international trade. The standard describes phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of introduction or spread of pests associated with packing material made of either coniferous or non-coniferous wood. Wood packing material that has been treated with one or more approved measures and bears the specified mark would normally be accepted by all national plant protection organizations. Measures approved in the standard include heat treatment and fumigation with methyl bromide. Adopting and complying with the new standard is a significant undertaking as it requires countries to establish an official monitoring and compliance system for wood packing material. The United States may be able to adapt a system developed last year to address EU emergency measures for non-manufactured wood packing material. In 2001, the United States traded more than \$1.8 trillion worth of goods internationally, much of which was shipped using packing material covered by the IPPC standard. Reference information on the standard is available at: [www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/swp](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/swp)

## Japan Still Number One, But Canada Gains Ground

Final 2001 export data show that Japan ranks number one for U.S. agricultural exports at \$8.9 billion. Behind Japan was Canada, which bought \$8.1 billion in U.S. products. Though Japan is the dominant export market for U.S. agricultural products, its overall imports decreased from 2000 by \$385 million, while Canada's rose \$484 million. From 1996 to 2001, Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) continued to grow while Japan's GDP remained flat. The United States' third-largest market in 2001 was Mexico, with exports to that market totaling \$7.4 billion.