



November 13, 2025

Trade Progress with China

From November 3 – 7, ABC staff joined 13 ag commodity associations on an Ag Trade Delegation to China led by the U.S. Soybean Export Council. The group visited with officials in Beijing and then participated in the 8th annual China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, where ABC had a booth in the USA pavilion. The delegation was able to hear more about the successful meeting between Presidents Trump and Xi on the fringes of an APEC summit that took place the previous week in Korea. After the presidential summit, China announced it would lower retaliatory tariffs by 10% on imports from the USA – for California almonds, this means dropping the tariff from 45% to 35%. It will also extend China's section 301 tariff waiver program for the next 12 months. Both sides also agreed to [drop new port fees](#) for another 12 months. While in Beijing, the delegation met with the U.S. embassy and had a very positive meeting with China's lead trade negotiator with the United States, Minister Li Chenggang. Li expressed his appreciation for the visit and positive discussion about maintaining our trade relationship with China.

Latest Tariff and Trade Updates

In recent weeks:

- The Trump Administration announced new agreements with [Malaysia](#) and [Cambodia](#) and frameworks with [Thailand](#) and [Vietnam](#).
- The U.S. will quadruple the TRQ for Argentinian beef imports in an effort to lower beef prices for consumers.
- Trade negotiations with Canada were cancelled and tariffs on the country increased by 10% due to an anti-tariff TV ad aired in Canada.
- USTR [initiated a Section 301](#) review into China's compliance with the "Phase One" agreement that was negotiated and signed during the first Trump Administration.
- USTR is proposing to remove CAFTA-DR benefits and add 100% tariffs on imports from Nicaragua following an investigation into Nicaragua's labor and human rights practices as well as the country's rule of law.

For more information, please contact Keith at kschneller@almondboard.com and Lindsay at ltello@almondboard.com.

China Facility Registration Update

China's CIFER renewal window for facilities' registrations expiring at the end of December closed on October 1. FDA sent a letter to GACC requesting that the renewal period be extended by another 90 days and is optimistic that the request will be granted soon. ABC will alert handlers as soon as the window is re-opened. Handlers who wish to continue exporting almonds to China must make sure their FDA/[Export Listing Module](#) is up to date, and then process the renewals via cifer.singlewindow.cn. Please contact Keith for more info at kschneller@almondboard.com

Japan Pre-Test Protocol Review

On November 4, ABC joined USDA and Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) in Tokyo for the first review of the Pre-Test Protocol which went into effect on April 1. Implementation has gone well, with minimal "glitches". MHLW was pleased with the positive response – over 98% of those shipping to Japan have signed on to the voluntary Protocol, which specifies 5% import inspection. Meetings were also held with the Japan Nut Association to review the Protocol, and ongoing efforts for verification of re-conditioning of non-compliant consignments. For more information, please contact Julie at jadams@almondboard.com or Tim at tbirmingham@almondboard.com.

USSA Trip for EU Stewardship Conversations

ABC recently joined a U.S. Sustainability Alliance (USSA) trip to Denmark, Sweden, and Poland to meet regulators and ag groups. The purpose was to learn more about how sustainability initiatives are being implemented in various EU countries, as well as to educate them on the stewardship efforts by U.S. growers. The environmental issues and practices that growers can adopt are fundamentally the same as in the U.S. All 3 countries require growers to do some basic stewardship practices to receive the basic CAP subsidies; growers can get more funding for a wider range of practices, mainly focused on reducing run-off (Baltic Sea water quality), reducing GHG emissions, improving soil quality, etc. In Denmark and Sweden, nitrogen applications are tightly regulated to protect ground water. For more information, contact Gabriele at gludwig@almondboard.com.

Hearing for USTR Ag Negotiator

A confirmation hearing was held on October 29 for Dr. Julie Callahan, nominated to be the USTR chief agricultural negotiator. She faced bipartisan scrutiny on the impact of tariffs, U.S. competitiveness and pricing pressures, securing access for specific U.S. products, and negotiating priorities across key export markets like China, Japan and South Korea. Julie currently heads the Ag Affairs Section at USTR, and knows almond issues well. Read her opening statement [here](#).

Ag Groups Request Aid

Due to recent input cost increases, stagnant grower prices and limited export opportunities, more than 200 agricultural groups [sent a letter](#) to the Trump administration requesting an aid package while the Administration continues to pursue expanded markets internationally and domestically. A [separate letter](#) from the Specialty Crop Alliance requested the reinstatement of the specialty crop relief program from the first Trump Administration citing the unique economic challenges for specialty crop producers. The American Farm Bureau Federation [also sent a letter](#) urging the Administration and Congress to take action to stabilize the economy calling for bridge payments for farmers before the end of the year.

Supreme Court Hearing on IEEPA Tariffs

On November 5, the Supreme Court held oral arguments on the legality of tariffs imposed by the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). The justices expressed significant skepticism about the president's authority to use the 1977 law to impose sweeping tariffs, which they noted is a power usually reserved for Congress. A decision in the case is expected in early 2026.

AFPI Report on Chinese Threats to U.S. Ag

The America First Policy Institute (AFPI) has released a [new research report](#) detailing China's systematic capture of key sectors of the U.S. agricultural economy. The report provides exclusive research on how once-Western companies, such as **Smithfield** and **Syngenta**, have been acquired or are effectively controlled by Chinese state-owned enterprises. According to an

AFPI press release, the report covers national security threats, the vulnerability of key food supply chains, economic warfare, IP theft and data security, and multimillion-dollar lobbying efforts on behalf of foreign principals.

U.S. Ag Industry Supports USMCA Renewal

A [letter from 124 US food and ag groups](#) calls for a full 16-year renewal of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The letter was submitted as part of the public consultation process for the Joint Review of the USMCA. The leaders from all three countries must consider whether to extend the USMCA and are required to begin the review by July 2026. If they fail to extend the agreement, it will automatically expire in 2036, and annual reviews could commence. Hearings for the USMCA review are scheduled for November 17.

U.S. Pays General WTO Dues

Eight months after the Administration decided to withhold dues pending a review of U.S. support to international institutions, the U.S. has [reportedly](#) paid the 2024 dues it owes to the WTO. The WTO is crucial for U.S. agriculture by ensuring a stable, rule-based foundation for U.S. agricultural exports, which are vital to the U.S. economy. Rules are established that address foreign border measures, subsidies, and non-science-based trade barriers, which help U.S. farmers and ranchers compete on a more level playing field. This system helps to prevent trade disputes and facilitates global trade.

Upcoming Events & GTRA Activities

Nov 18-20 USAEDC Conference in Baltimore
Dec 10-12 [The Almond Conference](#) in Sacramento

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2025GTRA0019