

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**MARKETING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**Charles Bronson, Chairman**  
**Commissioner, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services**  
**2005 Midyear Meeting, Washington, D.C.**  
**February 21, 2005**

**Update from Marketing and Regulatory Programs:** Under Secretary Bill Hawks, APHIS Administrator Ron DeHaven and John Greifer, APHIS Trade Support staff, provided updates on a number of trade-related issues, such as BSE, international guidelines, bilateral relationships on technical issues, avian influenza, consultative committees on agriculture and technical assistance with developing countries. The committee also urged Under Secretary Hawks to have an active dialogue with the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that all appropriate federal agencies are conducting inspections that will prevent the introduction of new pests and diseases that could harm our agricultural crops and livestock and in turn decrease trade opportunities. Members also urged USDA to provide information in a timely manner.

**Update from the Foreign Agricultural Service:** Ken Roberts, Associate Administrator and Pat Sheikh, Deputy Administrator, International Trade Policy, provided updates on a number of free trade agreements that the Administration is pursuing and the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization. They also spent time giving us updates on the Canada Consultative Committee on Agriculture and the Mexico Consultative Committee on Agriculture. It was announced the Canada CCA would meet in April 2005 before the Tri-National Agricultural Accord in Sacramento, California, April 13-16, 2005.

**Update on Specialty Crops Task Force:** California Secretary A.G. Kawamura informed the committee about the latest activities on the specialty crops block grant program. The Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004, (P.L. 108-465) authorized \$44.5 million for a block grant program and NASDA will be leading an effort to urge Congress to fund the program in the FY 2006 Appropriations bill. NASDA will also provide input to a bill that is being drafted entitled the Specialty Crops Amendments Act of 2005.

**Review of WTO Appeal and Impact on Farm Programs:** Craig Thorn, DTB Associates, LLP, Consulting and Legal Services In International Trade and Agricultural Policy, provided a thorough update on current activities related to the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization and on the Cotton Appeal Case before the WTO panel. He provided his perspectives on how farm programs could be impacted by a decision that could be announced by WTO in March. His presentation will be available for NASDA's members.

**Discussion on 2007 Farm Bill and NASDA Plans / Next Steps:** In the next few months, the committee agreed to review the farm bill issue areas under its purview and determine the priorities for the next farm bill. This will be done through a series of e-mail surveys and conference calls so that compiled information will be provided to NASDA's regional organizations for further review and input this summer.

**Report on Tri-National Agricultural Accord:** The committee heard updates from Idaho Secretary Patrick A. Takasugi, Co-Chair, U.S./Canada Working Group and Arizona Director Don Butler on behalf of New Mexico Secretary Miley Gonzalez, Co-Chair, U.S./Mexico Working Group on the upcoming meeting of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord and implementation and modification of the work plans. The Accord meeting will take place in Sacramento, California, April 13-16, 2005. More information can be located at [www.triaccordxv.com](http://www.triaccordxv.com) .

## **Policy Amendments**

The committee considered the following policy amendments:

No. 3, proposing updates to Section 6, International Marketing and Trade of Agricultural Products was approved by voice vote.

No. 4, amending section 6.2, Expansion of Trade Opportunities, regarding temporary visas for prospective Chinese buyers was approved by voice vote

After receiving the required 2/3 vote to consider the following policy amendments, the committee took action on the following:

No. 16, amending section 12.8, Farm Income and Production, by moving the Specialty Crop subsection to section 11, Domestic Marketing and Promotion, and adding new language was approved by voice vote.

No. 17, amending section 6.2, Expansion of Trade Opportunities, by adding language that NASDA opposes the passage of the Central American – Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) was approved by voice vote with two states abstaining (Oregon and Hawaii).

## **Action Items**

After receiving the required 2/3 vote to consider the following action items, the committee took action on the following:

Action Item J, requesting NASDA to write a letter urging Congress to restore funding of the Market Access Program to the level authorized in the 2002 farm bill was approved by voice vote.

Action Item K, requesting NASDA to write a letter urging Congress to oppose the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) was approved by voice vote with 3 states abstaining (Oregon, Hawaii and Washington).

Action Item L, requesting NASDA to write a letter urging Congress to pass the Agricultural Export Facilitation Act of 2005 increasing trade with Cuba was approved by voice vote with 2 states abstaining (Florida and Idaho).

## **Priority Issues / Six-Month Work Plan**

The committee recommends that the following issues be priorities for NASDA:

- Specialty Crops Block Grant Program funding and any future legislation
- Funding for the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development
- Planning for Tri-National Agricultural Accord and implementing Work Plans
- Monitoring trade policy actions by Congress and the Administration, including opposition to CAFTA-DR
- Developing plans and gathering information for the 2007 farm bill process and setting NASDA priorities for the 2007 farm bill