Despite Pandemic, Ag Export Markets Still Make Major Economic Impact

Because U.S. agricultural production usually outstrips national demand for many goods, U.S. growers and ag companies have traditionally depended on export markets to support their revenues. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic created a hard-to-predict trade situation for these goods. But it’s helpful to remember where ag export markets stood before the pandemic to better gauge its effects on trade. This infographic provides an overview of the important role that agricultural exports play in the U.S. economy.

Key Commodity Exports, Year-Over-Year Comparisons
These year-over-year comparisons provide a snapshot of recent export numbers in several commodity crops.

- Soybean: 23,757,000 / 26,598,000
- Corn: 23,339,000 / 13,697,000
- Wheat: 10,120,000 / 10,157,000
- Cotton: 1,080,000 / 1,428,000

Trading Partners
While exported U.S. agricultural products go to many countries, the U.S. sent 60% of those goods in 2019 to six areas: Canada, Mexico, the EU-28, Japan, China, and South Korea.

Trade Agreements and Trade Surpluses
U.S. agriculture has generally benefited from the more open trade produced by free trade agreements, resulting in trade surpluses. The trade surplus in 2019 was $11 billion.

1 MILLION JOBS were supported by agricultural exports in 2018.

FOOTNOTES