

# Trade Notes...

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## USDA Requests Petitions for Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers Program

Groups of U.S. agricultural producers seeking assistance under the TAA (Trade Adjustment Assistance) for Farmers Program for fiscal 2005 may submit their requests to FAS through Jan. 31, 2005.

Under the TAA program, USDA provides technical assistance and cash benefits to eligible farmers and fishermen whose crops or catch have been adversely affected by imports of like or directly competitive commodities. After a petition has been certified for a group, eligible farmers and fishermen will have 90 days to apply for assistance.

FAS must receive petitions by 5 p.m., Eastern time, Jan. 31, 2005. Petitions can be submitted by: **Fax: (202) 720-0876; E-mail: [trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov](mailto:trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov)**; or **Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Trade Adjustment Assistance Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1021, Washington, DC 20250-1021**. Use of fax or e-mail is preferred.

The TAA petition form is located on the Web at: **[www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/resource.htm](http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/resource.htm)**. For further information or questions about completing the form, contact the **TAA coordinator, Tel.: (202) 720-2916**. General information about the TAA program can be found on the program's Web site: **[www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taaindex.htm](http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taaindex.htm)**

## USDA To Promote Exports at South Africa Trade Show

U.S. companies can exhibit in the American Café at Hostex 2005 in Johannesburg, South Africa, March 13-16, 2005. South Africa is a growing market with a burgeoning tourist industry. Because of this growth in tourism, a vast array of hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, cafés, resorts, country clubs, fast-food outlets, bars, airlines and supermarkets are looking for a wide variety of imported food and beverage items. In addition, South Africa, with an expanding middle class and a relatively stable economy, presents growing opportunities for U.S. exports of specialty food products. With its well-developed transportation infrastructure, South Africa serves as an export hub to markets throughout the region. Products with the best prospects for this show include pasta, sauces, candies, snack foods, fresh fruits, seafood, poultry, pet foods and dairy products.

For a minimal fee of \$400, a company can have its products displayed and sampled without the full expense of having a booth at the show.

For more information on exhibiting at Hostex, or for information on other USDA-endorsed shows, contact: **Tobitha Jones, FAS Trade Show Office; Tel.: (202) 690-1182; Fax: (202) 690-4374; E-mail: [Tobitha.Jones@usda.gov](mailto:Tobitha.Jones@usda.gov)**