

## USDA prepares for Agri-Trade Mission to Japan strengthening bilateral cooperation

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U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Alexis M. Taylor will lead the trade mission. The delegation includes a robust representation of the U.S. agriculture sector, including businesses, state departments of agriculture, and commodity groups.

"As one of the world's leading economies, Japan is a significant market for U.S. food and agriculture exports. It is an incredible honor to lead this delegation as we work to expand our bilateral trade relationship even further. The diverse set of businesses in our delegation connect many women-, minority-, and veteran-owned U.S. agribusinesses with potential business partners in Japan," said Taylor.

Japan is the fourth-largest market for U.S. food and agricultural exports. In 2022, U.S. exports matched the previous record, totaling \$14.6 billion, with exports of soybeans, dairy and other products reaching new highs. The United States is vital to ensuring food security in Japan, with nearly a quarter of all Japan's food and agricultural imports coming from U.S. exporters.

While in Japan, trade mission participants will engage directly with potential buyers, receive in-depth market briefings from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and industry trade experts, and participate in site visits.

In addition to representatives from the following businesses and organizations, Taylor will be joined by Idaho State Director of Agriculture Chanel Tewalt, Indiana State Director of Agriculture Don Lamb, Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan

Quarles, Nebraska Director of Agriculture Sherry Vinton, North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture Doug Goehring, and officials from the California, Georgia, Kansas, Maine, Washington, and Wisconsin state departments of agriculture and many other prominent delegates of USDA.

USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America.