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# Ag and Food Exports... and the Trade Policy Spaghetti Bowl

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Monterey Bay International Trade Association:  
The Importance of Ag Exports for our State Economy

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# Overview

- A spaghetti bowl
- How'd we get here
- Detangling efforts
  - EU
  - Asia-Pacific
- Worse before better

# Spaghetti Bowl

- 60 bilateral or limited free trade agreements
- Over 150 bilateral and special agreements in force
- 200 more under consideration
- Overlapping, conflicting rules of origin, duty relief, customs requirements

# How we got here

- WTO and challenge of multilateralism
- U.S. failure of leadership  
(Congressional discord, polarized public)
- Economic opportunism
- Political grandstanding

# EU “e-customs initiative”

- Work since 1990s capped by 2008 EU Parliament / Council decision
- Replace paper customs procedures with EU wide electronic ones
- Mostly by Feb 2011
  - Facilitate two-way trade
  - Reduce costs and improve clearance time
  - Common approach to control goods
  - Ensure collection of all duties
  - Improve supply chain visibility
  - Allow seamless flow and reuse of customs information

# EU “e-customs initiative”



- Some components
  - Automated Import System (similar systems for export and intra-EU)
  - Customs Risk Management System
  - Economic Operators registration
  - Customs Information Portal (incl. non-customs rules)
  - Single Electronic Access Points (choice, valid for all countries)
  - “Single Window” for standardized filing of customs and non-customs info
- Early pilots this year potentially for beverage and other food/ag products
- Feed into U.N., Asia-Pacific rules

# Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)



- World's largest cooperative economic forum
- Summit process with heads of state and heads of business
- 21 economies in North America, South America, Oceania, Asia, Russian Far East
- 41% world population, 49% world trade, 55% world GDP
- Focus on trade and investment facilitation “at the border, across borders, behind the border”
- Hosted in United States in 2011

# APEC Focus on Food

- Addressing
  - Food safety
  - Food security
  - Efficiency of food production and trade
- APEC Food System
  - Improve rural and technical infrastructure
  - Align domestic and international standards
  - Conformity and transparency of standards
  - Disseminate tech advances in food production and processing
  - Food sections of individual country action plans
- Ag Tech Cooperation Working Group
- Ag Biotech High Level Policy Dialogue
- Food included in other areas (e.g. market access, tariff and non-tariff measures, sustainable development)

# Illustrative APEC meetings

- Development & strengthening of food recall system
- Paperless trading
- Disaster resilience
- Fisheries and marine resource working groups
- Chemical dialogue
- Customs procedures
- Ministerial meeting on food security

# What to know or do

- Complexity will get worse before it gets better
- Get ready for paper free trade documentation
- Use your commodity and general trade associations to learn of changes  
([www.calchamber.com/international/](http://www.calchamber.com/international/), [www.tradeport.org](http://www.tradeport.org))
- Press State of California and Feds for good information and to represent your interests
- Get involved in APEC  
([www.calchamber.com/apec](http://www.calchamber.com/apec))
- Engage professional assistance  
([www.olivaglobal.com](http://www.olivaglobal.com))