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RELEASE IN FULL

Statement Concerning the Agreement Between the United States and China on Agricultural Cooperation, with Addenda, Signed at Washington April 10, 1999 Entered into force April 10, 1999

The Agreement has three elements: technical cooperation and exchange; specific technical cooperation and assistance initiatives; and resolutions of trade disputes. First, the United States has agreed actively to promote comprehensive cooperation in the area of research and development on agriculture. The United States will review its technical assistance programs to consider ways to make them more effective. Study programs on management systems, production technologies, marketing and distribution systems will be created and opportunities provided for Chinese officials to participate. China will review its restrictions on investment and business development in the agricultural sector with a view to facilitating such activities in China by enterprises and non-governmental organizations.

Second, a list of specific research, training and other assistance projects is included in the Agreement. The United States will implement projects from that list.

Third, China has agreed to the removal of import restrictions on important agricultural products, *i.e.*, citrus, wheat from the Pacific-Northwest and other grains, and will recognize the U.S. certification system for meat and poultry. China will permit imports of all meat and poultry accompanied by an U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) certificate of wholesomeness. Along with the removal of long-standing restrictions on U.S. citrus, grain, red meat and poultry exports to China, both countries agreed to accelerate the removal of all unjustified barriers to agricultural trade.

Addendum A to the Agreement includes protocols and work plans for imports of citrus from the relevant states. Addendum B (not reproduced here) is a sample of the FSIS Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness that will be issued in connection with exports of meat and poultry to China. Addendum C to the Agreement sets out the basis for U.S. certification regarding *Telletia controversa* Kuhn (TCK) and the sampling and testing procedures that will be used on shipments of U.S. wheat exported to China.

Legal Authority:

The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 and the Trade Act of 1974, as well as the authorities provided to the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to the Federal Plant Pest Act, the Plant Quarantine Act, the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act and the U.S. Grain Standards Act.