



UNITED STATES WHEAT MARKETS

Even though the United States is its own biggest customer, it also ships wheat to more than 100 different countries each year. Many of these countries have expressed concern about genetically modified crops (GMOs) and the risk GMO's may pose to human health and the environment. If the United States allows genetically modified wheat to be planted and sold, it may risk losing those markets.

U.S. Wheat Exports

- 50% of the U.S. wheat crop is exported.
- The annual value for U.S. wheat exports is over 4.5 billion dollars.
- The United States exports wheat to 81 countries in addition to the 28 countries in the European Union.
- One-fifth of the United States' spring wheat crop is exported to Europe.

Exports by State

- Montana exported an average of 318 million dollars of wheat each year over the past five years.
- North Dakota's average wheat exports were worth 531 million dollars of wheat per year over the past five years.
- South Dakota's average wheat export revenue over five years was 167 million dollars.
- Two-thirds of Montana's wheat, combined with wheat from North Dakota, Nebraska, and Colorado, is exported. Of this amount:
 - One-third goes to Japan
 - One-fourth goes to the Philippines.
 - One-fifth is shipped to Korea.
 - 10-15% goes to Taiwan.
 - 7-10% goes to other countries including Egypt, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Pakistan.



World Opinion

- 74 governments in countries across the world believe the safety of genetically modified organisms has yet to be determined and that GMO's endanger biodiversity.
- Many countries are requiring GMO labeling on any products containing even a small amount of genetically engineered crops. Labeling allows the consumer option of choosing products with or without genetically engineered ingredients.

Asian Markets

- 20% of all U.S. agricultural exports are bought by Japan, at a cost of over \$11 billion a year.
- 92.5% of Japanese consumers are in favor of GMO labeling.
- Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan each have mandatory labeling requirements for foods that contain even the smallest amounts of genetically engineered organisms.
- In April 2001 the Japanese government began requiring GMO labeling on 24 product categories including soybean tofu, flour, and corn flour.

European Markets

- 86% of Europeans want labeling on food that contains genetically modified products.
- The European Union has required labeling on genetically modified food products since 1987. Recent guidelines have also required stricter trace back ability and reformed standards for labeling at consumer level.
- U.S. sales of genetically engineered soya to the European Union dropped from 11 million tons in 1998 to 6 million tons in 1999.
- Sales of genetically engineered maize from the U.S. to the European Union fell from 2 million tons in 1998 to 137,000 tons in 1999.
- Italian consumer groups have also warned that they will not accept GM wheat.
- Large-scale food retailers in the Britain, France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, and Ireland have joined together to ensure access to GM-free products.
- Tesco, the largest food retailer in the United Kingdom has stated that it will not buy crops grown on land that has ever produced a genetically engineered crop.
- Partial or complete bans on GM crops are also in effect in Austria, Luxembourg, Italy, and Greece.
- Algeria, the largest buyer of North American Durum wheat has also banned imports, sales, and consumption of GM products.



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Major World Wheat Importers

Imports in Million Metric Tons	Status on Genetically Engineered Crops
1. Euro. Union 8.0 MMT	Required labeling on food products since 1987
2. Brazil 6.5 MMT	Restricts GM crop production
3. Iran 6.0 MMT	Center for wheat biodiversity, issue currently in dispute
4. Japan 5.8 MMT	Requires mandatory labeling on 24 product categories
5. Egypt 5.8 MMT	In research partnership with Monsanto
6. Algeria 4.5 MMT	Banned import, sale, and consumption of GM products
7. S. Korea 4.1 MMT	Requires GM food labeling
8. Indonesia 4.0 MMT	Currently in dispute over production of Bt cotton
9. Philippines 3.3 MMT	Requires safety testing of all GM imports
10. Iraq 3.3 MMT	Center for wheat biodiversity, issue currently in dispute
11. Mexico 3.2 MMT	Center for maize biodiversity, mandatory labeling