



Growing Wheat to Feed the World...

Farmers all around the world are trying to answer the cries of hunger — that's why U.S. farmers are doing their best to produce the most food that they can. Most farmers in the world don't expect to become rich by what they are doing. They are simply trying to provide for their families, their communities and their markets. If America is lucky enough to be able to provide humanitarian assistance to countries that are struggling, because of war, weather or economic troubles, there is no reason not to share. As long as we have surpluses, it is far better to provide it to those who need it rather than dump it in the ocean.

Under the public provisions of the Food Aid Convention of 1999, the U.S. pledged to provide a minimum of 2.5 million metric tons (in wheat equivalent) annually. The EU pledged to provide about half that amount plus 130 million Euros cash. Australia pledged to provide about one-tenth of what the U.S. has pledged.

Given that these food aid pledges and programs were developed through two years and nine rounds of negotiations, it is quite surprising to hear Australia and the EU now criticizing U.S. food donations. One EU spokesman charged that "the United States pretends to be the best benefactor to the world by giving food to developing countries." The U.S. is simply living up to our negotiated commitments and to what we believe are our moral obligations and take serious offense at the implications of this complaint.

There are some things the U.S. is trying to improve in our food aid programs:

- The U.S. needs to clarify our internal rules on food donation programs, and more clearly differentiate humanitarian aid from market development programs. It is complicated at the moment, and some streamlining will make the programs more transparent to our domestic audiences as well as to our trading partners and countries that need assistance.
- Our donation programs need to be more consistent from year to year, and they should be non-commodity specific. That is, a country that needs food aid should not have to beg, nor to wait and wonder, nor should they be given a commodity they do not need.
- We need better documentation to confirm that the aid is not interfering with local commercial markets in the countries to which aid is given.
- The American government has started to examine whether food aid programs should be changed, and ideas will be discussed and debated over the next year or two. In the meantime, the volume on the anti-aid rhetoric should be turned down, and volume of support for humanitarian aid should be turned up.

Photo entries invited for 2007 U.S. Wheat calendar

U.S. Wheat Associates invites U.S. wheat growers, buyers, and users to submit pictures for possible use in the USW 2007 calendar. We encourage photographers — both amateur and professional, from the U.S. and the 90 countries that use U.S. wheat — to submit their best photos of U.S. wheat fields, foods made from U.S. wheat, or other scenes depicting the shipping, milling or use of U.S. wheat.

The deadline for entries is June 1, 2006. Twelve photos will be selected at awards of US \$100 each.

USW will own all rights to the selected photographs. If people are featured in the photo, the photographer must obtain consent from the people before submitting their photos. By submitting such photos, the photographer confirms and represents he or she has received that consent. Materials will not be returned.

Mail entries to: Dawn Forsythe, U.S. Wheat Associates, 1620 I Street, NW, Suite 801, Washington, D.C. 2006. **Requirements for prints:** If you submit an original print, please include the negative. **Requirements for digital photos:** You should use a four mega-pixel (or higher) digital camera, set to the highest quality resolution setting. Electronic files must be saved as eps, tiff or jpeg. Digital photo entries must be burned to a CD accessible by a PC. E-mail entries will not be accepted. **Take care of your entries:** All entries must include your name, phone number and mailing address. Do not use paper clips to fasten anything to the photos or negatives as they could be permanently damaged. Protect your photos from bending in the mail, and use a padded envelope for mailing CDs.

The Texas Wheat Producers & U.S. Wheat Associates

*Working Together to Make a World of Difference
Knowing and growing the wheat export market, working
in over 100 countries on behalf of American wheat growers,
U.S. Wheat Associates maintains offices strategically
located around the world in order to pave the way for U.S.
export growth in all six classes of wheat: durum, hard red
spring, hard red winter, soft red winter, soft white, and hard
white wheat.*

