

# Michigan and U.S. Agricultural Exports

**Grade Level: 4-6**

**Approximate Length of Activity: One class period**

## Objectives

### Teacher

1. Help students realize the importance of Michigan's agricultural products.

### Students

1. Learn the terms "import" and "export."
2. Learn to which countries Michigan exports agricultural products.
3. Use statistics to determine the percentage of Michigan exports.

**Michigan Content Standards: (Math)** N.FL.04.08; N.MR.04.30; N.FL.05.05; N.ME.05.09; N.FL.05.20; N.MR.06.13

## Introduction

Michigan farmers have an important role in supplying safe, fresh food and farm products to the United States and the world. Michigan farmers produce everything from cereal grains, milk and lean meats to delicious fresh fruits and vegetables.

The United States imports and exports many agricultural products. An export is a product that is sold to another country. The United States and Michigan export many items including soybeans, corn, wheat, cotton, beef, pork, apples and grapes. An import is a product that is brought into a nation from a foreign country. The United States imports items such as coffee, tea, spices, silk, pineapples, bananas, sugar and fish. Michigan is one of many states that import these products.

This lesson is designed to teach the terms export and import. It is also designed to illustrate how Michigan is ranked in exporting compared to its size.

## Materials Needed

- "Michigan and U.S. Exports" worksheet
- "Export Map" worksheet
- Almanac or other resource books

## Activity Outline

1. Begin by discussing the words “import” and “export.” If the students can’t come up with a definition, pass out the “Export Map” worksheet and read the definitions. Discuss the items they know are imported. Don’t forget to mention cars and electronic goods. Also discuss items that are exported.
2. Ask the students to check the tags or printing on an article of clothing they are wearing and look for the country in which it was made. Students may look at shirts, shoes, pants, socks, accessories or anything else they may be wearing. For students who cannot find an article of clothing that lists the country of origin, you may want to have some belts, vests or other accessories available for them to look at.
3. Begin by going around the classroom and asking each student where one article of their clothing was made. Write each person’s country on the chalkboard. Keep tallies if more than one article of clothing was made in the same country. When done, ask the students how many countries are on the chalkboard. Then ask them if one country made more than one article of clothing. How many articles of clothing did the country make? How many countries made more than one article of clothing? Discuss why countries are able to produce and export or sell (if made in the United States) articles of clothing.
4. Use the “Export Map” worksheet to answer the questions on “Michigan and the U.S. Exports” worksheet. The 1998 statistics will help you figure out some math facts about Michigan and its importance in agricultural exporting.

## Discussion Questions

1. What is an import? Name some products that the United States imports.
2. What is an export? Name some products that the United States exports and some that Michigan exports.
3. How does Michigan rank in the exporting of agricultural products?

## Related Activities

1. The lesson could also be geared to purchases the students make. Most labels tell the origin. They could check their clothes and other belongings to see how many articles are imports.
2. Plot the origin of clothing materials on a map after looking at the tags.
3. The lesson “Buy, Sell, Trade, or Starve” located in the health section of this curriculum guide.

## Michigan and U.S. Exports

1. How many countries buy each of these agricultural products from the United States?

Wheat \_\_\_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_\_\_

Feed Grains \_\_\_\_\_ Pork \_\_\_\_\_

Soybeans and Soy products \_\_\_\_\_

2. The total U.S. agricultural export sales in 2006 were \$68,721 million. Michigan agricultural exports were \$1,161 million. What percent of the total U.S. agricultural exports did Michigan sell?
3. Michigan export sales for soybeans and products were \$222 million in 2005. Michigan's total exports were \$961 million. What was the percentage of soybeans exported?

# Michigan and U.S. Exports

Use the Export Map to answer the questions below.

1. How many countries buy each of these agricultural products from the United States?

Wheat **8**

Beef **7**

Feed Grains **8**

Pork **4**

Soybeans and Soy products **7**

2. The total U.S. agricultural export sales in 2006 were \$68,721 million. Michigan agricultural exports were \$1,161 million. What percent of the total U.S. agricultural exports did Michigan sell?

$$(1,161 / 68,721) \times 100 = 1.69\%$$

3. Michigan export sales for soybeans and products were \$222 million in 2005. Michigan's total exports were \$961 million. What was the percentage of soybeans exported?

$$(222 / 961) \times 100 = 23.1\%$$

## Export Countries

Michigan has an important role in supplying food and farm products to countries all over the world. As of 1997, Michigan ranked No.3 in the United States in the amount of agricultural products sent overseas. Below are some of the countries all over the world that buy agricultural products from the United States. Some of the agricultural products were produced in Michigan.

**Export:** To sell a product to another country.

**Import:** To buy a product from another country.

### Australia

Beef  
Feed grains  
Wheat

### Brazil

Wheat

### Canada

Beef

### China

Wheat

### C.I.S.

Beef  
Feed grains  
Pork  
Soybeans  
Soy Products  
Wheat

### Eastern Europe

Feed grains  
Soybeans  
Soy products

### Egypt

Beef  
Wheat

### European community

Beef  
Feed grains  
Pork  
Soybeans  
Soy products  
Wheat

### Hong Kong

Pork

### India

Soybeans  
Soy products

### Japan

Beef  
Feed grains  
Pork  
Soybeans  
Soy products  
Wheat

### Mexico

Feed grains  
Soybeans  
Soy products

### New Zealand

Beef

### South Africa

Feed grains

### Taiwan

Seed grains  
Soybeans  
Soy products