



United States
Department of
Agriculture
Foreign
Agricultural
Service

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Contact: Sara Feuerstein (202) 720-3101

U.S. Companies to Participate in Trade and Investment Mission to Georgia July 12-15, 2010

WASHINGTON, July 09, 2010 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) announced today that 13 U.S. companies will meet with over 170 Georgian businesses in a Trade and Investment Mission to Tbilisi, Georgia, July 12-15. The primary aim of the mission is to facilitate trade and investment particularly in agricultural processing equipment, inputs, livestock genetics, ready-to-eat products, meat and poultry, and grain and feed sectors.

“This mission provides an opportunity for U.S. companies to learn more about local investment opportunities and markets,” said FAS Administrator John Brewer. “Past trade missions have had great success and we look forward to facilitating and strengthening investment partnerships in Georgia.”

Gary Groves, FAS assistant deputy administrator, will lead the mission. The delegation will meet with U.S. Chargé d’Affairs to Georgia, Kent Logsdon as well as Georgian companies and government officials. Through presentations by key Georgian ministries and USDA, participating American companies will learn about the Georgian investment climate, markets and regulatory environment, as well as U.S. Government business assistance programs. They will also have the opportunity to participate in round table discussions, form partnerships and joint ventures with local companies and entrepreneurs, and visit some production sites.

Two-way agricultural trade between the United States and Georgia totaled \$79 million in 2009, nearly 20 percent of all trade between the two countries. U.S. exports to Georgia have increased every year since 2006 and are up 35 percent over last year to date.

Georgia offers numerous opportunities to U.S. companies. The World Bank’s annual “Doing Business” report currently ranks Georgia 11th in the world for ease of doing business. Its educated labor force, strategic geographic location between Europe and Asia, and investment-friendly atmosphere make Georgia an attractive investment site.

For more information, contact Darrell Upshaw of USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service at (202) 690-1786, or e-mail him at Darrell.Upshaw@fas.usda.gov.

#

FAS PR

USDA Contact: USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272(voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).