

FAS-930
(10-30-09)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Foreign Agricultural Service

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS (TAAF)
PETITION FOR CERTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY FOR A GROUP OF PRODUCERS

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is 7 CFR Part 1590 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-5). The information will be used to determine eligibility for benefits provided by the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers program. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FAS/2. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for participation in the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers Program.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0551-0040. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 6 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. **Completed petition may be submitted by fax or emailed or delivered to addresses listed below.**

FAX: 202-720-0876	MAIL TO:	COURIER DELIVERY
Or:	Or:	Or:
EMAIL:		
tradeadjustment@USDA.gov	TAAF Foreign Agricultural Service Stop 1021 USDA 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, DC 20250-1021	TAAF Foreign Agricultural Service Suite 400 USDA 1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20024

1. Name of Authorized Representative or Primary Contact Cherie Watte Angulo	2. Name and Business Address (Including City, State, and Zip Code) National Asparagus Council (NAC) 1432 McCabe Cove Road El Centro, California 92243
3. Telephone Number (Including Area Code) (760) 356-4906	
4. Fax Number (Including Area Code) (760) 356-4906	5. E-Mail Address ccwatte@hotmail.com

6. This petition is made on behalf of the following producers: (Enter at least 3 names if filed by an individual. Organizations do not need to enter producer name.)

A. Name of Producers	B. Mailing Address	C. Telephone No. (Including Area Code)	D. E-Mail Address

7. COMMODITY INFORMATION:	
A. Description of the raw (excludes processed) agricultural commodity: (e.g., fresh raspberries) ASPARAGUS	B. Competing Imported Commodity's Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) Number (HTS can be found at: http://www.usitc.gov/taffairs.htm) 0709.20 0709.20.10 0709.20.90 0709.10

C. This petition is for the most recent marketing year for the commodity beginning in January, 2009 and ending December, 2009
(month/year) (month/year)

D. Check the production area of the commodity for which this petition is submitted (state, states, or national):

National State (Identify State or States (list): **California, Michigan, Washington**)

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

8. Provide one of the following for the most recent marketing year and for each of the 3 preceding marketing years: the average annual price, production quantity, value of production, or cash receipts.

Note: Use Official data if available. The Department's National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) has national price data available for many raw agricultural commodities. The information can be found at: www.usda.gov/nass. You must state the source of your data. If you do not use official data, you must provide contact information for verification purposes and supporting documentation to show how your data was calculated or obtained.

(Check and complete only one)	(1) Most Recent Year	(2) 1 Year Ago	(3) 2 Years Ago	(4) 3 Years Ago
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Average Annual Price	\$	\$	\$	\$
B. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Production Quantity	899,000,000 lbs	952,000,000 lbs	1,125,000,000 lbs	1,153,000,000 lbs
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Value of Production	\$	\$	\$	\$
D. <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Receipts	\$	\$	\$	\$

9. Source of data entered in Items 8A – 8D: **USDA NASS Vegetable Summary**

10. **Basis for request for adjustment assistance.** Explain (or attach documentation) how imports have affected your commodity during the most recent marketing year based on at least one of the following measures: price, quantity of production, value of production, or cash receipts. Include any other factors that may also have contributed to lower producer prices below:


The above numbers represent total US domestic production of asparagus for the years 2006 through 2009. The three year average for production between 2006 and 2008 is 1,076,700,000 pounds. 85% of this 3-year average is 915,200,000 pounds. The U.S. asparagus industry exceeds this loss threshold by producing only 899,000,000 pounds in 2009, the marketing year for which we are applying for the Trade Adjustment Assistance program.

The decline in U.S. asparagus production is directly related to increased imports from foreign countries, particularly Peru and Mexico. The implementation of NAFTA and the Andean Trade Preferences Act (ATPA) in the 1990's resulted in a surge of asparagus imports from these two countries. Total asparagus imports have grown by more than 25% since 2005. The U.S. industry has attempted to adjust to the increased imports by reducing acreage and total volume in the market place. The huge supply of foreign product on the U.S. market has also severely impacted price. Michigan asparagus growers lowered their price by as much as 34% in a single year to retain customers and market share.

Furthermore, the dramatic increase in foreign production of asparagus has severely curtailed the domestic industry's ability to retain export markets. California's export reliance, for example, has dropped from an industry high of 25% to 15% in 2009. Foreign competition in traditional export markets has reduced volume as well as the value of the U.S. crop.

Asparagus is a perennial crop that has a relatively long life expectancy. Since the crop is not usually harvested for the first three years, asparagus production represents a significant long-term investment for growers. Technical assistance in the development of business adjustment plans would help U.S. producers make the most of this long-term investment and improve the future viability of the domestic industry. The U.S. asparagus industry would use TAA to adjust current business operations to current global economic conditions. The National Asparagus Council believes the program will help improve individual producer viability in this increasingly globally competitive.

The National Asparagus Council represents the California Asparagus Commission, the Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board and the Washington Asparagus Commission.

11A. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE 	11B. TITLE Secretary/Member	11C. DATE SIGNED (MM-DD-YYYY) 04/13/2010
12A. SIGNATURE OF FAS REPRESENTATIVE	12B. TITLE	12C. DATE PETITION FILED (MM-DD-YYYY)