

# Alfalfa Seed Exports

NAFA Co-existence Meeting  
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Denver, CO

Paul Frey  
President/CEO  
Cal/West Seeds

# Coexistence Quotes

- ▶ “Coexistence... what the farmer does with the turkey - until Thanksgiving.”
- ▶ “The only alternative to coexistence is Co destruction”
- ▶ “Whenever we find rather similar animals living together in the wild, we do not think of competition by tooth and claw, we ask ourselves, instead, how competition is avoided. When we find many animals apparently sharing a food supply, we do not talk of struggles for survival; we watch to see by what trick the animals manage to be peaceful in their coexistence”

# Topics relating to seed exports

- ▶ Reason for concern
- ▶ Key markets for US alfalfa seed exports
- ▶ Requirements for exporting US alfalfa seed
- ▶ Issues relating to GMO alfalfa seed
- ▶ Options/Solutions

## Traces of an EU unapproved biotech event were found in a conventional rapeseed variety in Germany.

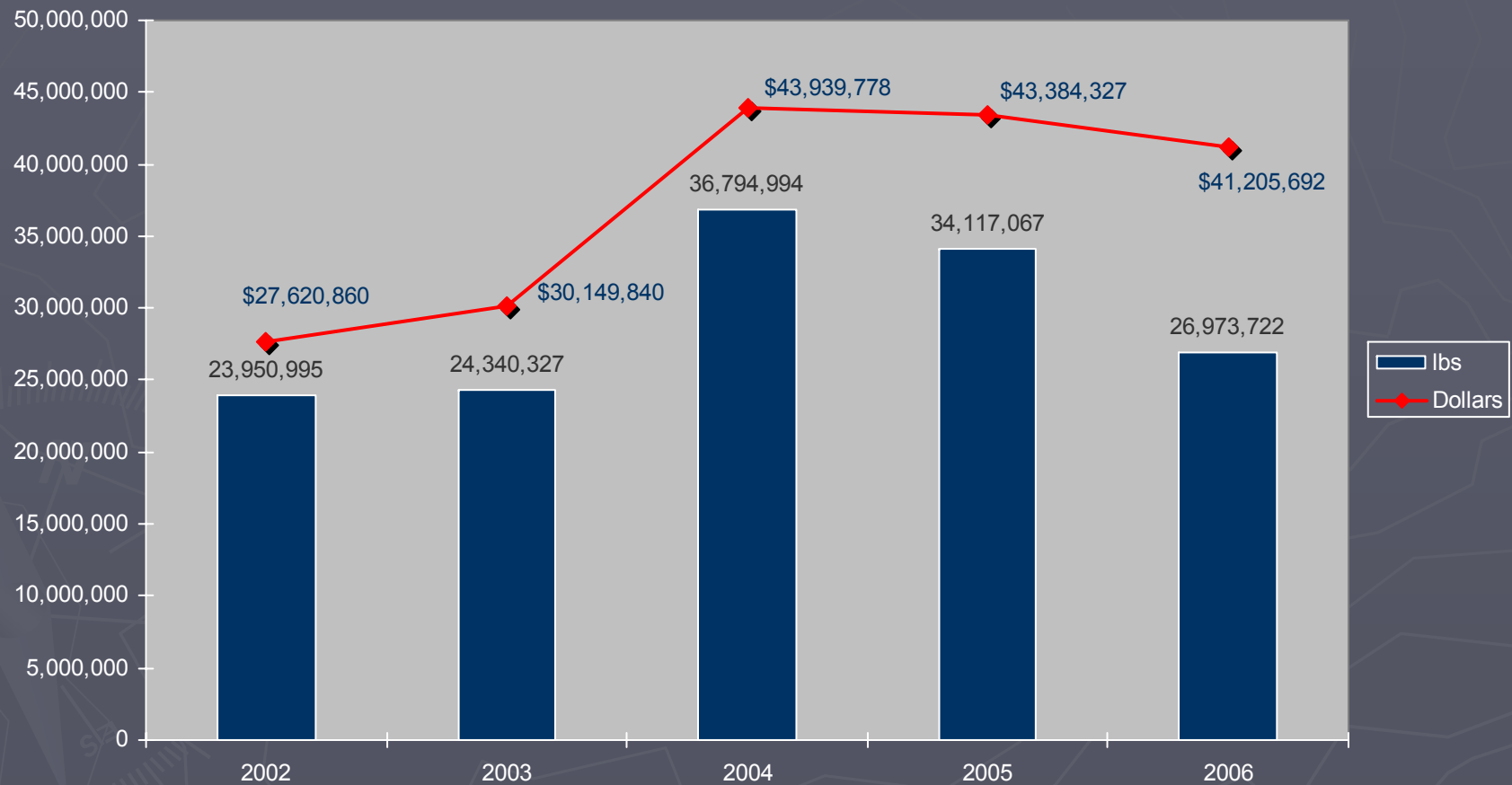
▶ USDA/FAS GAIN Report Number: GM7042

▶ **Report Highlights:**

Farmers who already planted the seeds are now ordered to destroy the plants. A replanting of the destroyed fields with rapeseed is prohibited for 2007 and 2008.

▶ **SUMMARY:** Farmers across Germany are under threat to destroy about 1500 hectares of recently sown rapeseed because it was recently discovered that the seed contained trace amounts of an EU-unapproved biotech event. Prior to planting, the seed in question had been tested negative for biotech content several times. **Legal actions are pending.**

# US Alfalfa Seed Exports



# Sixty Three Countries

ARGENTINA

AUSTRALIA

BAHAMAS

BERMUDA

BOLIVIA

BRAZIL

CANADA

CHILE

CHINA

COLOMBIA

COSTA RICA

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ECUADOR

EGYPT

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

ESTONIA

FRANCE

FRENCH PACIFIC ISLAN

FRENCH WEST INDIES

GERMANY

GREECE

GUATEMALA

HONG KONG

INDIA

ISRAEL

ITALY

JAPAN

JORDAN

KENYA

KOREA

KUWAIT

LATVIA

LEBANON

LEEWARD-WINDWARD ISL

LIBYA

MALAYSIA

MEXICO

MOROCCO

NETHERLANDS

NEW ZEALAND

NICARAGUA

PAKISTAN

PANAMA

PERU

PHILIPPINES

PORTUGAL

QATAR

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

SAUDI ARABIA

SINGAPORE

SOUTH AFRICA

SPAIN

SWEDEN

SYRIA

TAIWAN

THAILAND

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TURKEY

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UNITED KINGDOM

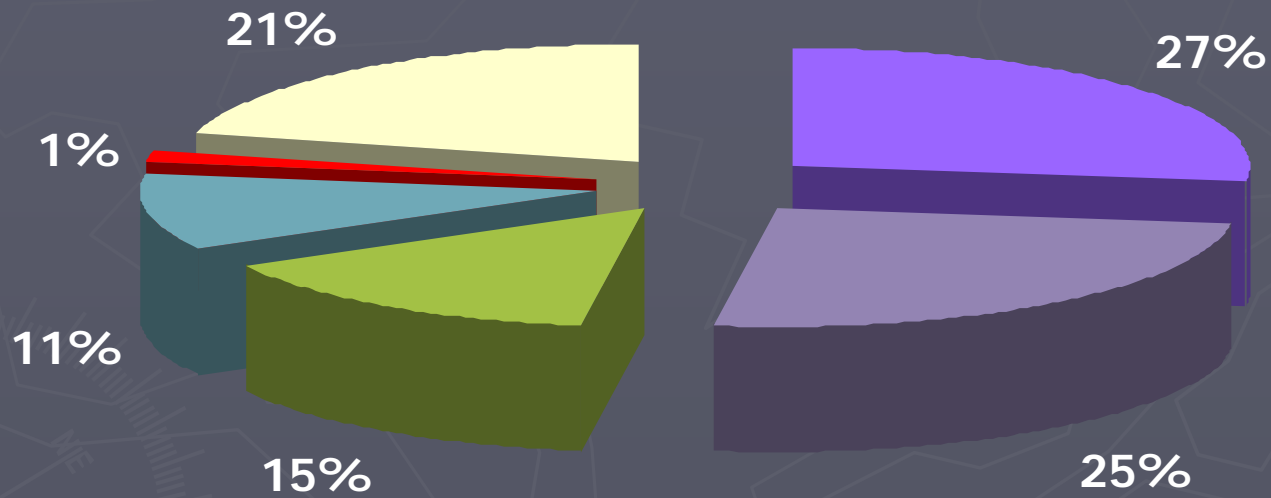
URUGUAY

VENEZUELA

YEMEN

# Key Markets

(Based on volume of exports)



■ Mexico ■ Saudi Arabia ■ Argentina ■ Canada ■ Japan ■ Other

# Export requirements

## ▶ Country Specific

- Variety Registration
- Compliance with licensing agreement with local distributor(s)
- Seed Certification
- Phytosanitary certificates
- GMO declaration/warranty
  - ▶ Federal Seed lab no longer willing to do this for alfalfa
  - ▶ Countries make their own policy often following EU
  - ▶ USDA has no control over this

# Issues

- ▶ Previous “industry” standards for isolation of seed fields did not provide sufficient protection for export markets
- ▶ Company’s exporting seed could be liable for damages

Ed Barton wrote on Aug 8, 2007 6:57 AM:

“ Alex, While I am a supporter of bio technology, I am also a supporter of property rights. If my mutt bull crashes out of my field and destroys your lawn and mounts your prize heifer, I'm liable for damages. If your crop infects and destroys mine, you're liable. Prove you can keep your pollen on your own place and we won't have a problem. Until then, either don't plant it or get ready to buy my crop. Ed ”

# Options/Solutions

- ▶ Focus on Seed Production
- ▶ Tighter mandatory controls for isolation of seed fields
  - Commitment from all industry stakeholders
  - Recognition of farmers rights associated with their land holdings
  - Classification based on risk
  - Pre-planting identification of intended planting sites (time deadlines with penalties if not met)
  - Verification from Seed Control officials that specific standards of production were met
- ▶ Verification of Seed Stock purity
- ▶ USDA assistance in export markets to mitigate risks associated with AP