MEMORANDUM

To: Parr Rosson, Professor and Extension Economist
   International Trade and Marketing

Date: April 12, 1999

Re: Survey on World Trade Organization and Trade Negotiations.

On November 30, 1999, the United States and the other members to the World Trade Organization will launch the Millennium Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MR-WTO) in Seattle. This will be the first round of MTN since the completion of the Uruguay Round Agreements (URA) of the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1993 and is expected to build upon those successes. Negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) have already begun.

The purpose of this survey is to obtain insights and opinions from agricultural leaders such as yourself to improve our extension education programs and applied research related to international trade and trade policy issues. As you know, extension programs strive to be objective and based on sound science. While we cannot promote individual or organizational objectives and agendas or be biased, we do want to be sensitive to concerns and issues of you and your organization or agency. All individual survey results will remain confidential and will be destroyed upon tabulation of the final analysis. Only summary results will be reported. The primary audiences for the results of the survey will be extension educators, applied researchers, policy makers, and agricultural leadership.

The survey is being conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with the Southern Extension International Trade Task Force, composed of member land grant universities and the Southern Extension Farm Management, Marketing, and Public Affairs Committees, in cooperation with the Southern Region Research Project on, “Impacts of Trade Agreements and Economic Policies on Southern Agriculture.” Financial support for this survey was provided by Farm Foundation.

Following are questions that will be helpful in developing land grant university extension education programs to assist you and your members with upcoming trade issues that are likely to affect agriculture and rural communities in significant ways.

Please take 10-15 minutes to complete this and return it to us in the enclosed return envelope by Friday, May 7, 1999. You may also return them via fax to (409) 847-9378.

We truly appreciate your assistance and look forward to working with you in the future.
1. Please identify your organization or agency:

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2. There are a variety of trade issues upcoming in the next year for the US. Please circle all with which you have some level of awareness:

   a. Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)
   b. Fast track negotiating authority
   c. Asian financial crisis & trade problems
   d. US-Canada agricultural trade problems
   e. US-European Union “banana war”
   f. US-European Union beef hormone dispute
   g. US-Mexico trade problems
   h. Congressional trade negotiation oversight legislation
   i. World Trade Organization (WTO) issues
   j. Federal support to open more foreign markets for US agriculture
   k. Formal investigations on the possible harm of specific imports to US agriculture
   l. Lifting sanctions on Cuba
   m. China, Russia, and former Soviet states joining the WTO
   n. Exclusion of US agriculture from foreign policy sanctions
   o. Other (list):  

________________________________________________________________________

3. Using the same list as above, please circle all topics which you or your members would have some interest through an education program:

   a. Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)
   b. Fast track negotiating authority
   c. Asian financial crisis & trade problems
   d. US-Canada agricultural trade problems
   e. US-European Union “banana war”
   f. US-European Union beef hormone dispute
   g. US-Mexico trade problems
   h. Congressional trade negotiation oversight legislation
   i. World Trade Organization (WTO) issues
   j. Federal support to open more foreign markets for US agriculture
   k. Formal investigations on the possible harm of specific imports to US agriculture
   l. Lifting sanctions on Cuba
   m. China, Russia, and former Soviet states joining the WTO
n. Exclusion of US agriculture from foreign policy sanctions
o. Other (list): ________________________________

4. Please list the three most important issues affecting your organization/membership/agency which relate to the formation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

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5. Please list the three most important issues affecting your organization/membership/agency which relate to the upcoming negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO), formerly the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade (GATT).

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6. Circle all of the education program opportunities that you or your members would be interested in this year:

a. Research results on issues your organization or agency has identified as important
b. Awareness programs on how the trade negotiation process works
c. Awareness programs on how to participate in the trade negotiation process
d. Awareness programs on the agricultural trade situation
e. Awareness programs on environmental issues related to agricultural trade
f. Awareness programs on labor issues related to agricultural trade
g. Awareness programs on food safety issues related to agricultural trade
h. Awareness programs on global capital flows and financial issues related to agricultural trade
i. Awareness programs on agricultural trade issues you/your organization or agency has
identified as important

j. Program where you have an opportunity to share your thoughts with leaders of other agricultural organizations/agencies, educators and Congressional aides from your state and other states in this region

k. Program that specifies trade and trade agreement impacts on farmers

l. Other (list)____________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

7. If we were able to develop an interactive video conference on the selected areas above at a convenient site in your state, would you or a knowledgeable representative of your organization or agency be willing to participate?

   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Only under the following conditions: ______________________________
      ______________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________

8. If you answered “a” or “c” to the question above, circle any of the time periods that might be suitable and useful to you.

   a. August 1999
   b. September 1999
   c. October 1999
   d. November 1999
   e. December 1999
   f. Other (list): _____________________________________
      ______________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________

9. This survey has been sent to your state’s leaders of farm and agricultural organizations and commodity associations. Are there other groups, agencies or individuals that we should survey? If so, please identify them here. If you have an address that would help.

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   ______________________________________________________

10. Are there other comments you would like us to know about related to extension trade programs or other services provided by your state Texas Agricultural Extension Service?

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11. Do you have a person(s) in your organization or agency other than yourself responsible for oversight of trade issues? If so, please identify by name & position.
   
   a. Yes
   Name: ________________________________
   
   Position: ____________________________

   b. No

Thanks for your assistance! If you would like to see a regional summary of this survey please circle yes below.

   a. Yes                     b. No