

China importers seek to lift tariffs on US farm goods: state media

July 21 2019



The United States and China have hit each other with punitive tariffs covering more than \$360 billion in two-way trade since President Donald Trump launched a trade war last year

Chinese importers are applying to their government to lift tariffs on

some US agricultural imports, state media reported on Sunday, three weeks after the two sides reached a truce in their trade war.

The unnamed importers were talking to US suppliers about potential pricing and have applied to a Chinese government body with oversight of tariffs to lift the levies, the nearly identical reports in various media outlets said.

The importers were acting "according to the needs of the domestic market," the reports said.

No further details were given, such as which products might be affected.

The move may be a goodwill gesture after the United States earlier this month was reported to have removed 110 Chinese export items from its own tariffs list.

The two economic giants have hit each other with punitive tariffs covering more than \$360 billion in two-way trade since US President Donald Trump launched a [trade war](#) last year, damaging manufacturers on both sides of the Pacific.

But Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to a truce and to revive fractious trade negotiations when they met on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan on June 29.

The Chinese media outlets on Sunday did not cite a specific source for the reported request to lift the tariffs on US goods.

The reports come just a few days after Trump accused China of backsliding on promises to increase purchases of American farm exports.

Following the Osaka summit, Trump announced that, in return for Washington's pledge to suspend a planned [tariff](#) increase on \$300 billion in Chinese imports, Beijing had offered to buy "a tremendous amount of food and agriculture product" from the United States.

"Mexico is doing great at the Border, but China is letting us down in that they have not been buying the agricultural products from our great Farmers that they said they would," Trump said Thursday on Twitter.

"Hopefully they will start soon!"

Last week US and Chinese trade officials had their first contact in months in an effort to revive negotiations that nearly collapsed in May.

Reducing America's soaring trade deficit with China has long been a principal aim in Trump's trade battle with Beijing, which he also accuses of stealing US technology and unfairly intervening in markets.

Trump has offered billions in aid to buy out US farms badly damaged in the US-China trade war. US soy exports collapsed last year, virtually wiping out foreign markets farmers had spent years cultivating.

© 2019 AFP

Citation: China importers seek to lift tariffs on US farm goods: state media (2019, July 21)
retrieved 1 May 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2019-07-china-importers-tariffs-farm-goods.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--