

# A Word (or Two) on Imports ...

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## ***AgImports Continue Nearly Four Decades of Expansion . . .***

### Long-term demand drivers for food imports

- ❑ changing consumer preferences (variety, luxury, healthful, ethnic)
- ❑ population growth – 2.7 million more consumers every year since 1980
- ❑ high disposable incomes which are growing rapidly for some segments

### Key products driving most of the increase in FY 2008

- ❑ import growth rate slows to pre-2003 level reflecting a weak dollar and negative impacts of higher fuel prices and the housing market slump
- ❑ continuing a well established trend: horticultural products account for 60% of increase with fruits, wine and beer driving much of the growth in this category
- ❑ not typical of long-run trends: coffee/tropical products continue strong gains & bulk grain import value is up on sharply higher unit value and some vol increase

### Import values for product groups driving most long-term growth

- ❑ horticultural products \$35.4 billion, of which fresh/process f&v \$17.9 billion, wine & beer \$9 billion, essential oils 2.5 billion, tree nuts \$1.2 billion
- ❑ snack foods \$5.2 billion, beef & pork \$4.7 billion, vegoils \$3 billion, dairy \$2.6 bil