

# Customs program to speed release of low-risk ag shipments

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WASHINGTON -- Customs and Border Protection has launched a program to expedite the release of agricultural products that are proven to have low risk of spreading disease or pests.

The National Agriculture Release Program will allow selected high-volume cargoes to be released into U.S. commerce with fewer inspections by agriculture specialists.

"NARP will expedite trade while protecting American agriculture," said

Jeffrey Grode, executive director of Customs' agriculture program and liaison office. "NARP will allow CBP to adjust to rapidly changing risk profiles without compromising U.S. agriculture."

The ag releases started with a program to expedite the release of high-volume, low-risk commodities from Mexico and other foreign countries. The commodity and its country of origin determine if it is eligible for NARP. Trucks, vessels or containers must contain only NARP-approved commodities.

Importers may learn more about the program by contacting local Customs port directors, or on Customs' Web site at:

[http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/cargo\\_summary/narp/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/cargo_summary/narp/).

-- R.G. Edmonson