Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today commented on the reopening of Chinese markets to American pork. The trade agreement was announced late yesterday by U.S. Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk.

“Agricultural exports help provide economic stability in rural America,” Fortenberry said. “Chinese pork markets are increasingly important to Nebraska’s hog farmers. After a lengthy delay, I am pleased this area of our trade relationship will soon return to normal.”

Prior to H1N1 trade constraints, U.S. pork exports to China were valued at nearly $275 million in 2008 and China was the United States’ seventh largest market. Pork trade will now resume immediately once both sides finalize export documentation.

Fortenberry, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, has pressed USDA and the U.S. Trade Representative over the last year to work urgently for normalized trade relationships benefitting American livestock producers.

###