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Eventual Implementation in the WTO Cotton Subsidies Case

Sallie James of Cato [sees signs of hope](#) that the WTO *U.S. - Cotton Subsidies* ruling will eventually be implemented:

I've written before about [Rep. Collin Peterson's \(D, MN\) disdain for the World Trade Organization](#), and its [rulings against U.S. farm programs](#). However, in launching his [2012 Farm Bill listening tour](#), the Brownfield blog reports that he sees that [perhaps some changes might be necessary after all](#). And, lo and behold, he cites the WTO rulings as the reason:

One of the key issues [in the 2012 Farm Bill] will be what to do about the way that cotton farmers are subsidized. The committee's chairman, Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., said today that the cotton program will have to be overhauled in the wake of Brazil's successful challenge to the subsidies at the World Trade Organization. [The Obama administration agreed to change the program in a deal to avert retaliation against U.S. exports to Brazil](#). [link added]

Subsidies for cotton currently mirror those for corn, soybeans, wheat and other commodities, but there's no reason why they have to be the same for each crop in the future, said Peterson. "In the past we've tried to have a one-size-fits-all approach, but maybe that's not the case in the future. I'm willing to consider that," he said. "**If we don't address it, we may be back in the soup again with potential retaliation issues.**" [emphasis mine]

Finally, the penny drops.

Some good anecdotal evidence that WTO rulings can have an impact, and that DSU-authorized retaliation can be effective, although at this stage it is all just talk.

Posted by Simon Lester on April 20, 2010 at 01:48 PM in [WTO Disputes](#) | [Permalink](#)

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