

United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

ISSUE:

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is the product of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiations initiated by the Trump administration on May 18, 2017. The administration advanced a proposal within talks to enhance producers' ability to initiate an anti-dumping case. Specifically, this provision would have streamlined the petition process by loosening the burden to produce three years of data to one year and eliminating the requirement of proving nationwide industry injury in favor of proving injury on a regional basis. Ultimately, this "seasonal/perishable provision" within NAFTA renegotiations was not included in USMCA.

IMPACT:

Without a solution embedded within USMCA, Florida's specialty crop producers will continue to experience loss of market share due to high volumes of dumped Mexican product. Generations-old family farms will be unable to compete under these unfair trade conditions, and more farm closures will likely follow. These effects are spreading quickly across multiple specialty crops and throughout the Southeast.

ACTION:

Florida Farm Bureau supports the Agricultural Trade Improvement Act of 2018, which would equip specialty crop producers with an effective remedy to challenge Mexican dumping. If such legislation becomes law, it would be similar in effect to the "seasonal/perishable" provision pursued in NAFTA renegotiations. This legislation was introduced by Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson in the U.S. Senate and Carlos Curbelo and Al Lawson in the U.S. House of Representatives.



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IMPACTED COMMODITIES



FFBF POLICY:

"We favor the renegotiation and enforcement of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to protect the producers of domestically grown, seasonal and perishable agricultural commodities from unfair trade practices."

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Florida Farm Bureau (FFB) is the state's largest general agriculture membership organization, with 147,000 member-families. Florida Farm Bureau's Agricultural Policy Department facilitates the policy development process initiated by its active membership and ratified annually by the organization's voting delegates. FFB National Affairs works to advance policies through Florida's congressional delegation and federal regulatory agencies.

