

Tomato Suspension Agreement

ISSUE:

Since 1996, the U.S. government and the Mexican industry have engaged in suspension agreements of fresh tomatoes imported from Mexico. These agreements have updated floor pricing for imported tomatoes while suspending any U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) investigations into dumping claims. On February 6, 2019, the DOC announced their intention to withdraw from the 2013 Suspension Agreement of fresh tomatoes from Mexico because it has not adequately protected domestic producers against unfair Mexican dumping. The United States will formally withdraw on May 7, 2019 and reinstate the anti-dumping investigation.

IMPACT:

For decades, Florida's tomato producers have experienced devastating market conditions as the result of Mexican dumping into domestic markets. What was a thriving industry of hundreds of Florida producers has now dwindled to a few farmers. This action will force a renegotiated suspension agreement to better protect Florida tomato producers and/or advance further investigation by the DOC and the International Trade Commission (ITC).

ACTION:

The reopening of the anti-dumping investigation for Mexican tomatoes is a positive development for Florida tomato producers, and FFBF applauds the Administration's actions. Florida's fruit and vegetable sectors continue to experience dumping in other commodity areas as well, which calls for the need for a comprehensive solution within the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) considerations.



Jaime Jerrels

jaime.jerrels@ffbf.org



JohnWalt Boatright

johnwalt.boatright@ffbf.org

“Despite a previous accord that banned artificially low prices, Mexican producers have found ways to exploit the agreement and increase their market share.”

- Zippy Duvall

AFBF PRESIDENT

IMPACTED
COMMODITY



FFBF POLICY:

“We favor the development, enactment and timely enforcement of regulations such as production, volume or price triggers that would deal with the dumping (on a rapid or timely basis) of foreign perishable commodities into the United States. No open or consigned loads should be allowed to be imported.”

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2019

Florida Farm Bureau (FFB) is the state's largest general agriculture membership organization, with 147,000 member-families. Florida Farm Bureau's Agricultural Policy Division 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.

