



**AMERICANS FOR  
FARMERS & FAMILIES**  
**STRONG FARMING MEANS JOBS**

**For Immediate Release:**

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**New Coalition Advocating For North American Free Trade  
Agreement Modernization Launches Campaign in North  
Carolina**

*Food & Agriculture Sectors Support Over 1.2 Million State Jobs &  
Depend On Trade With Canada & Mexico*

**(Raleigh, NC)** - The North Carolina chapter of Americans for Farmers & Families (AFF), a coalition working to ensure President Donald Trump and congressional leaders understand the importance of preserving and modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to America's agricultural and retail economies, today announced its formation. The local chapter is part of a broad-based national group of **more than 50 organizations** representing growers, refiners, producers, transporters, retailers, and consumers, and aims to undertake a robust educational campaign to highlight the positive impacts of NAFTA to the state and the country.

In 2016, North Carolina's total food and agricultural exports totaled \$2.7 billion, with \$553 million going to NAFTA partners. The pork industry is of particular importance to the state's economy, and a bad NAFTA deal could impact the industry particularly hard.

"We cannot afford to upset relationships with our trading partners and urge the government to do no harm to NAFTA or other free trade agreements," said Andy Curliss, CEO of the North Carolina Pork Council (NCPC). "North Carolina's farm families – and the rural communities where they live – depend on free trade, especially from NAFTA, and take great pride in delivering the world's best pork to customers a few miles down the road and around the world."

Since taking effect in 1994, the benefits of NAFTA have spread beyond America's

agricultural community, helping grow over 43 million jobs, including more than 1,258,000 in North Carolina and earning workers approximately \$52 billion in wages. However, it is rural communities that have been among the biggest winners under NAFTA, the very same areas that powered then-candidate Trump's victory in 2016.

Ten percent of all land farmed in the United States produces exports to Canada and Mexico. These exports have more than quadrupled under the trade agreement and now represent 25 percent of American exports. In addition, NAFTA has benefited all American consumers by helping keep grocery prices down. NAFTA has opened markets to America's farmers, grown domestic jobs and has supported \$127 billion in annual economic activity. Under NAFTA, the U.S. food and agriculture industries support more than 43 million jobs throughout the nation.

For more information, visit <https://americansforfarmersandfamilies.com/>.

To download our state economic fact sheet, click [here](#).

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