



# 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 Ohio**

*Food & Agriculture Sectors Support Over 1.5 Million State Jobs & Depend On Trade With Canada & Mexico*

**(Columbus, OH)** - The Ohio 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, Ohio's total food and agricultural exports totaled \$4.1 billion, with \$1.7 billion 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.

"Ohio exports more than \$500 million of pork each year, generating nearly 2,500 jobs and \$121 million of state economic activity," said Bryan Humphreys, executive vice president of the Ohio Pork Council. "Any disruption of trade with Mexico and Canada, which account for approximately one-third of total U.S. pork exports, would have devastating consequences for rural families in Ohio and around the country."

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 1,540,000 in Ohio and earning workers approximately \$64 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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