



# AMERICANS FOR FARMERS & FAMILIES

**STRONG FARMING MEANS JOBS**

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Pennsylvania Chapter Of Americans For Farmers And Families Announces Launch**

*Group Will Highlight Positive Impact Of NAFTA & Advocate For Updated Agreement That Can Thrive In 21st Century*

**(Harrisburg, PA)** - The Pennsylvania affiliate 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, announced its formation today.

The Pennsylvania affiliate of AFF is part of a broad-based national group of **more than 50 organizations** representing growers, refiners, producers, transporters, retailers and consumers that have come together to undertake a robust educational campaign to highlight the positive impacts NAFTA achieves for hard-working Americans and lay the groundwork for an updated trade agreement that preserves America's strong economic standing for decades to come.

"Pennsylvania farmers produced \$1.3 billion in exports to Mexico and Canada in 2016. Modernizing NAFTA will lead to continued growth and prosperity for farmers throughout Pennsylvania. Renegotiating NAFTA will put Pennsylvania farmers and families first," said Martin "Marty" Yahner, of Yahner Brothers Farm in Patton, Pennsylvania.

Since its implementation more than 20 years ago, NAFTA's benefits have spread beyond America's agricultural community, helping grow over 43 million jobs, including more than 1.5 million jobs in Pennsylvania. 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 and helped him capture Pennsylvania's

electoral college votes.

“Maintaining and updating NAFTA is critically important for Pennsylvania farmers, especially when you consider that 37 percent of all Pennsylvania agriculture products exported to foreign countries goes to Canada and Mexico. I would like to encourage the Trump Administration to continue working toward an agreement that protects Pennsylvania agriculture while modernizing the agreement to better fit America’s agricultural economy,” said Erick Coolidge, owner of LE-MA-RE Farms in Wellsboro Pennsylvania.

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 in the United States. NAFTA has opened markets to America’s farmers, grown domestic jobs and supported \$127 billion in annual economic activity. Lastly, 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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