



AMERICANS FOR FARMERS & FAMILIES

STRONG FARMING MEANS JOBS

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Contact:

press@americansforfarmersandfamilies.com

Americans for Farmers & Families Talk NAFTA Impact With Pennsylvania Agriculture Leaders

(Harrisburg, Penn.) – Today, the Pennsylvania chapter of Americans for Farmers & Families (AFF), a coalition working to ensure that 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, joined agriculture leaders to discuss the effects of NAFTA on Pennsylvania's economy.

"Our family works hard every day for the success of our farm and the rest of our country relies on a huge network of dedicated and hardworking farmers and agricultural workers to do the same. Maintaining NAFTA, and better yet, modernizing it, will allow farmers like me to better serve the American people in the best way I know how," said Erick Coolidge, owner of LE-MA-RE Farms in Wellsboro and a Tioga County Commissioner.

In 2016, Pennsylvanians exported a total of \$2.3 billion in food and agricultural products, \$1.3 billion (60 percent) of which went to NAFTA partners. By bolstering the economy and both directly and indirectly supporting \$69 billion in wages throughout the state, NAFTA has become a trade agreement that farmers depend on. Rural communities, like those in Pennsylvania, are amongst the biggest winners under NAFTA, the very same areas that powered then-candidate Trump's victory in 2016.

"Pennsylvania has a rich agricultural heritage and agriculture is one of the top industries in our commonwealth. It's important that we work towards modernizing NAFTA which will allow for continued growth and prosperity for Pennsylvania farmers," stated Lancaster County Senator Scott Martin.

Since its implementation more than 20 years ago, the benefits of NAFTA have spread beyond America's agricultural community, helping grow over 43 million jobs, including

more than 1.5 million in Iowa. 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. NAFTA has opened markets to America's farmers, grown domestic jobs and 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.

"I grew up on a dairy farm in Lancaster and understand how important the agricultural industry is to my county and to all of Pennsylvania. Agriculture is the backbone of my district's economy. We must preserve and modernize NAFTA for the well-being of all farming families in our Commonwealth," concluded Lancaster County Representative David Zimmerman, Secretary of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

For more information on AFF, including a list of coalition members, please visit <https://americansforfarmersandfamilies.com/>.

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