



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 Michigan

Food & Agriculture Sectors Support Over 1.1 Million State Jobs & Depend On Trade With Canada & Mexico

(Lansing, MI) - The Michigan 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 70 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, Michigan total food and agricultural exports totaled \$2.8 billion, with \$1.2 billion going to NAFTA partners. The state's diverse agricultural production yields economic benefits from top exports such as beef, vegetables and fruit, and corn and grains. In fact, a **2017 study** shows that grain exports alone offered \$628 million in economic output for the state.

"The benefits NAFTA has had on our state and local economy cannot be understated," said Jason McConnachie, president of the Michigan Corn Growers Association. "We have the second most diverse agriculture industry in the United States, with about 40 percent of Michigan farmers' exports going straight to Canada, our No. 1 export market. A failure on NAFTA would prove catastrophic for Michigan's farmers and consumers alike."

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 1.19

million in Michigan and earning workers approximately \$49 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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