Trade Agreements Open Dairy Markets and Create American Jobs

Over the past decade, dairy processors have invested billions in new processing plants, creating tens of thousands of new American jobs, in large part due to increased export sales. Higher export demand for farm milk has benefited both farmers and processors.

Just a few years ago, the United States was a net importer of dairy products. Since 2007, US dairy exports have risen from $2.9 billion to $5.4 billion in 2017. Our nation now benefits from a dairy trade surplus of $2 billion.

**U.S. Dairy Exports vs. U.S. Dairy Imports**

According to the Department of Agriculture, every $1 billion in dairy exports creates 20,000 jobs.

Worldwide demand for dairy ingredients and products is expected to continue to increase, particularly in regions like Asia where a growing middle-class is demanding more protein and quality dairy. Our dairy industry is highly competitive and is uniquely able to take advantage of this growing demand to help our nation’s economic recovery.

Trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) are vitally important if we are to continue this success story. Conversely, trade agreements should not be used by our global competitors to create new barriers to trade, including denying the use of common food names like parmesan and feta.

Help create more jobs—support free trade agreements.