

# The WTO and Dairy

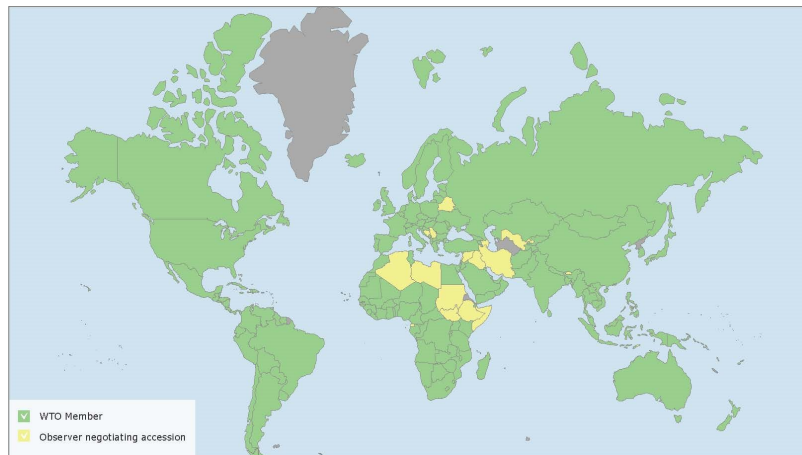
## What is the WTO?

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an international organization that works to maintain trade that is as free as possible between member nations.
- Over 160 countries, including the United States, are members of the WTO. This represents the vast majority of countries that participate in trade.
- The WTO tries to open trade via WTO agreements. For these agreements to pass, they are negotiated and then signed by all member nations.
- These agreements create rules that ensure “trade flows... smoothly, predictably and freely.”

## How does the WTO system help dairy?

- One of the core rules of the WTO system is non-discrimination. This means that countries must apply the same tariffs to all countries, unless they hold a free trade agreement (FTA) with that country.
- The WTO’s rules for non-discrimination help keep global markets equally accessible to U.S. dairy processors as they do any other member nation, even when we do not hold an FTA with that country.
- Another advantage of the WTO is its dispute settlement system, which allows the U.S. to fight unfair actions or deals that disadvantage the U.S. dairy industry against WTO rules.
- This system allowed the U.S. to bring five cases against countries unfair retaliatory tariffs which affected dairy.

## WTO Membership



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