



2023 KEY OBJECTIVE SUMMARY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ISSUE: USMCA REGULATORY COOPERATION AND BORDER ISSUES

IMPORTANCE: Canada and Mexico are two of the largest export markets for many U.S. meat and poultry products. In response to these market conditions, the North American industry has integrated operations throughout its supply chain. Products often cross U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) borders one or more times before reaching end consumers. However, unnecessary or duplicative regulatory barriers at the border hamper this trade, reducing efficiency and increasing expenses while contributing nothing to food safety. By reducing these barriers and deepening coordination, both the North American meat industry and its consumers stand to gain from the improvement in food safety and transportation logistics.

OBJECTIVE: Reduce, through coordination with industry partners in Canada and Mexico, unnecessary burdens on cross-border trade in the region by identifying and promoting streamlined regulatory processes that deliver product to the consumer in the fastest, freshest, and safest possible state.

ACTION STEPS:

- Engage, through regular meetings and communication, NAMI's Canadian and Mexican partner associations and companies to identify opportunities for increased coordination to address cross-border trade issues and topics of global significance, including sustainability, innovation, and food security.
- Provide Administration officials, Embassy staff, and Congressional contacts with U.S. meat and poultry trade priorities for the North American market and outline key regulatory and border issues such as:
 - Harmonize standards and establish protocols for continued trade in the event African Swine Fever is detected in North America;
 - Address trade disruptions and commercial concerns related to Mexico's front-of-pack labeling regulations;
 - Engage U.S.-based coalitions working to address Mexico's biotech policies, including efforts to preserve access for U.S. genetically modified corn for animal feed (NAMI supports the recent [decision](#) by the U.S. to request dispute settlement consultations with Mexico under USMCA addressing the country's agricultural biotechnology policies);
 - Support a resolution to ongoing investigations into seasonal and perishable products that does not result in retaliatory tariffs on U.S. meat and poultry exports to Mexico, which would undermine the industry's access under USMCA;
 - Work with FSIS, CFIA/Canada, and SAGARPA/Mexico to reduce meat sampling sizes during border inspections and allow partial drop shipments among the three countries; and
 - Encourage adoption of simplified border clearance procedures for products such as inputs for artisan meats and other fully-cooked meat and food products.