

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tri-National Agricultural Accord Communiqué

Provincial and state agricultural leaders from Canada, Mexico, and the United States (U.S.) met in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada for the 32<sup>™</sup> meeting of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord. Delegates were warmly welcomed to the province by Saskatchewan's Minister of Agriculture, David Marit.

Delegates gathered in-person to discuss areas of pressing importance to the North American agricultural sector. The Tri-National Accord continues to be an important venue for meaningful conversations on the importance of and transparency in trade, sustainable agriculture production, global food security, and rural development. Industry representatives from the agriculture and agri-food sector across North America joined this Accord to share perspectives on opportunities and challenges for agricultural trade and development, including the need for cross-border harmonization for the smooth transport of goods and livestock.

Federal officials addressing delegates included Michelle Cooper, Director General, Market Access Secretariat, International Affairs Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada from Canada and Jeanne Bailey, Deputy Administrator, Trade Policy and Geographic Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service from the U.S.

Delegates discussed rural development and inclusion of Indigenous communities in agriculture; regulatory harmonization across North America; improving the reliability of our highly integrated supply chains; ensuring producers have access to innovation and technology; expanding trade in emerging markets, and the importance of science- and evidence-based decisions.

Discussions regarding animal disease preparedness, prevention, and response in North America were critical to collectively address the threat of African Swine Fever and Foot and Mouth Disease. Industry representatives and delegates shared information on how to improve communications between industry, states/provinces, and federal governments; how to gather and share useful risk intelligence; and how to address gaps related to emergency preparedness for foreign animal diseases.

The Accord affirms the importance of building strong and resilient relationships between states and provinces, and the value in engaging with industry representatives and our respective federal governments. The attached joint statements were agreed to by the respective bilateral working groups.

In recognition of the importance of the Accord for the future and to continue strengthening our relationships, the U.S. National Association of State Departments of Agriculture extended an invitation to Mexico and Canada to attend the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord in Virginia, United States.

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