

TRI-NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ACCORD ACUERDO AGROPECUARIO TRI-NACIONAL ACCORD TRINATIONAL SUR L'AGRICULTURE

## **Trilateral Meeting Statements**

State and provincial Ministers, Secretaries, Commissioners, Directors, and other officials of agriculture continue to seek opportunities to collaborate on issues of significance to farmers, ranchers and agricultural processors, as well as issues impacting rural communities. Delegates recognize the increasing importance of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord, which allows our countries to share concerns and identify solutions to problems facing our individual countries, North America as a united trading block, and global agricultural trade more broadly.

## North American Trade Relationship

State and provincial agricultural leaders recognize that while there remain isolated trade nuisances that will continue to be addressed, North American agriculture has universally benefited from strong ties and our cross-border trade relationship. Delegates heard from a panel of experts including Sharon Bomer-Lauritsen with AgTrade Strategies and Michael Harvey, Executive Director, Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance to begin discussing the upcoming review of the trade agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States in 2026, and to seek opportunities to work with our respective agricultural industry stakeholders and our federal partners to ensure continuation of this agreement.

## **Agricultural Outreach**

The traditional emphasis of our trilateral discussions have been inward-facing, with efforts to address challenges confronting our cross-border relationships. As our relationship has matured, State and provincial agricultural leaders are increasingly prioritizing efforts to expand economic opportunities in rural communities throughout North America. Delegates discussed efforts to promote and expand agricultural outreach programming for the benefit of Canadian, Mexican, and U.S. rural, indigenous, and minority stakeholders. Delegates heard from Kerri Conway, Director, International Agriculture and North American Agricultural Advisory Network Secretariat, Chris McKee, Senior Vice President of Business Development, National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food, and encouraged our respective federal partners to continue to seek opportunities to expand information sharing among our nations.

## **Animal Disease**

Delegates continue to prioritize animal disease preparedness and recognize that inconsistencies in our individual responses to foreign animal disease incursions could slow response and potentially exacerbate disease spread and the resulting market disruptions. Delegates heard from Dennis Laycraft, Executive Vice President, Canadian Cattle Association and Dr. Beth Thompson, South Dakota State Veterinarian, and renewed calls for respective federal partners to organize periodic table-top exercises with the active involvement of state and provincial agricultural leaders to ensure continuity, communication, and consistency in our response to foreign animal diseases.