

**Joint Statement by the Dairy Sectors of Mexico and the United States of
America
On the Occasion of their Second Annual Meeting
Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico
August 24, 2017**

Representatives of organizations of Mexican milk producers, the *Confederación Nacional de Organizaciones Ganaderas*, *Gremio de Productores Lechero de la República Mexicana* and the *Asociación Nacional de Ganaderos Lecheros*, and processors, *Cámara Nacional de Industriales de la Leche*, along with representatives of the *U.S. National Milk Producers Federation* and the *U.S. Dairy Export Council*, on the occasion of their second annual meeting within the framework of the Partnership to Strengthen the Productive Sector for Milk in North America, held in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, hereby agree to:

1. Support efforts to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in recognition of the benefits it has generated for both countries, and seek avenues to improve commercial trade that currently exists among the three countries by ensuring the free flow of dairy products and eliminating any possible trade barriers.
2. Commit to working jointly to preserve existing market access opportunities between Mexico and the United States, and improve them where possible to benefit both milk sectors.
3. Strongly urge our respective governments to seek the full inclusion of Canada's dairy trade provisions within the North American Free Trade Agreement, and express to our respective governments our concerns regarding Canada's new milk pricing scheme which could significantly harm milk producers and processors in both Mexico and the United States of America.
4. Agree to continue working to defend generic "common" food names, especially with regard to bilateral trade agreements of both countries with the European Union. In conjunction with the pertinent authorities, we will work together to defend common food names in legal texts regarding "Geographic Indications" in order to safeguard at all times the free production and marketing of products that are listed under said category.
5. Establish a working group to analyze the implementation of the U.S. Grade A milk standard with the goal of developing a course of action to ensure that existing regulations are applied uniformly to the industries of both nations. It was also agreed to draft a joint letter directed to the regulatory agencies regarding this subject. The U.S. group offered to collaborate in technical assistance to increase knowledge and understanding of the Grade A process.
6. To facilitate trade of raw milk for processing purposes between both countries a working group will be established to analyze and recommend measures to the respective governments to resolve this issue on the basis of sanitary and scientific standards.

7. Continue to exchange information on developments in the milk sector in both countries, as well as on international milk and milk product markets.
8. Work to strengthen cooperation in terms of technological exchange and training in aspects covering farm milk production as well as on milk quality and nutritional information.
9. Work jointly to promote increased milk and milk products consumption in Mexico, optimizing the positive experience of the US dairy industry. Such efforts will include social network management and information exchange on research regarding dairy's contributions to improving health, seeking to strengthen and diversify promotional actions, particularly those addressing the nutrition and health sector.

Our industries benefit from a strong, cohesive dairy community under NAFTA; we urge all governments involved in the negotiation to modernize this crucial agreement to preserve and improve it based on the foregoing recommendations.