



Representing Alberta's Dairy Producers

Alberta Dairy Farmers Disappointed with USMCA

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EDMONTON, AB – It's a dark day for the 516 dairy farmers across the province as the news of the new USMCA agreement has concluded and dairy farmers have once again been sacrificed.

"We are extremely disappointed," says Chairman Tom Kootstra. "This outcome will do deep harm to not only our farmers, but also the 220,000 Canadians that work in the industry."

The additional domestic market access of 3.59% and the elimination of Class 7 are now completely lost markets for Canadian dairy farmers. In the past two agreements, CETA and the CPTPP, there was dairy access given that negatively affected the industry totaling at a quarter of a billion dollars. Canadians currently allow about 18 percent tariff-free access.

"This is death by a thousand cuts and weakening a thriving Canadian industry. That is not a sign of a good deal."

The Government of Canada has continually stated its support for supply management and locally produced milk before and throughout the negotiations. However, support for Canadian dairy does not mean importing more subsidized foreign dairy at the expense of local, non-subsidized dairy. It's not a level playing field.

There will also be no price difference to the consumer for milk products, as milk in Canada is \$1.51/L and \$1.63/L in the USA.

"This will dramatically affect our farmers and will negatively shape the future of the Canadian dairy industry. I worry about my kids' place in the industry and the next generation of dairy farming in Canada."

Essentially, this will not fix a broken American system that continually over produces milk. Our Canadian farmers will suffer and no wide-ranging long-term benefits will be seen in American dairy; it will remain broken.

Alberta Milk is seeking further details about the effects on the local dairy industry.

Alberta Milk represents Alberta's dairy farmers.

Contact:

Karlee Conway

kconway@albertamilk.com

780-577-3305 | 780-938-5963

