



9798 Karmar Court, Suite A
New Albany, OH 43054

Phone: 614-882-5887
OhioPork.org

July 1, 2020

MEDIA STATEMENT

Ohio's pig farmers applaud the enactment of the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement

NEW ALBANY, OHIO – *The following statement was issued today in response to the enactment of the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement. The statement can be attributed to Jim Heimerl, former president of the National Pork Producers Council, and owner of Heimerl Farms, a pig farm in Johnstown, Ohio.*

“As former president of the National Pork Producers Council, and a pig farmer of 45 years, I’ve seen the tireless effort that went into the enactment of the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA). USMCA has been a long process, but I think America has won a great opportunity with our neighbors in the north and south.

“Without the enactment of USMCA, the U.S. pork industry would face tariffs like those prior the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Farmers are already in a devastating market today, and cannot afford added tariffs. Thanks to the enactment of USMCA, farmers will greatly benefit from the preservation of zero-tariff pork trade in North America.

“For the U.S. pork industry, USMCA means we’re keeping our borders open to two of our largest export markets – with Mexico being our number one trade partner in volume – and that’s a huge opportunity.

“Here in the U.S., we’re in a deficit work force – and agriculture needs qualified labor on-farm. USMCA has created a huge influx of TN visas and a positive outlook for qualified labor in the workforce. Whether it’s labor, or whether it’s trade, I think the benefits of USMCA will very positive in the long-run.”

###

FOR INTERVIEWS: Contact Meghann Winters at 614-882-5887 Ext. 2. Ohio Pork Council officials and farmers are available for interviews.