North Carolina

Canada and Mexico are the top export markets for U.S. agriculture, totaling a combined $40 billion in 2018. In fact, more than 29 percent of all U.S. farm and food exports went to our North American neighbors last year. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, will make a good trade relationship even better, ensuring preferential market access for U.S. agricultural exporters and solidifying commitments to fair and science-based trade rules.

30,500
North Carolina jobs supported by agricultural exports

$3.6 billion
Annual value of North Carolina agricultural exports

Source: USDA-ERS 2017 State Export Data

Key Provisions

Biotechnology
For the first time, the agreement specifically addresses agricultural biotechnology – including new technologies such as gene editing – to support innovation and reduce trade-distorting policies.

Geographical Indications
The agreement institutes a more rigorous process for establishing geographical indications (GIs) and lays out additional factors to be considered in determining whether a term is a common name.

Sanitary/Phytosanitary Measures
The agreement strengthens disciplines for science-based measures that protect human, animal, and plant health while improving the flow of trade.

Top U.S. Agricultural Exports to Canada and Mexico, 2018

1. Corn ($3.4 billion)
2. Prepared Foods ($2.7 billion)
3. Fresh Fruit ($2.2 billion)
4. Soybeans ($2.1 billion)
5. Pork & Pork Products ($2.1 billion)
6. Dairy Products ($2.0 billion)
7. Fresh Vegetables ($2.0 billion)
8. Beef & Beef Products ($1.8 billion)
9. Snack Foods ($1.7 billion)
10. Poultry & Eggs ($1.6 billion)

Source: USDA-FAS Global Agricultural Trade System BICO HS-10

United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service