



## Community Council Newsletter

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Hello Everyone,

The enclosed packet has two new discussion guides. Both feature information taken directly from resources and issues briefings concerning American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) policy. Topics for discussion include:

### ***Agricultural Trade at a Glance***

Agricultural trade benefits American farmers and consumers. Exports enable farmers to sell goods into new markets, help them generate income and invest in their operations. Imports give consumers a greater variety of specialty products; they can buy staples such as fruits and vegetables throughout the entire year, too. U.S. agricultural exports worldwide are worth about \$140 billion a year. The nation's major Ag trading partners include Canada and Mexico (\$39 billion), China (\$20 billion), Japan (\$14 billion) and the European Union (\$12 billion). This Discussion Guide briefly details trade developments with each of these partners.

While some negotiations and agreements have eliminated policies that hindered trade over the past decade, additional work remains. In some cases, getting our trading partners to adopt to scientifically justified food safety procedures and/or eliminating Ag products as a retaliatory, "first strike" tariff option is needed.

Additional information/materials on this subject:

- **DTN Website – US, China Close on Trade Deal:** Ag Secretary Perdue highlights a potential "bonanza" for Ag sales if China follows through on settlement. More information at: <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/world-policy/article/2019/12/12/ag-secretary-perdue-highlights-ag>
- **OFBF Website - Farm Bureau Asks for Swift USMCA Approval:** The USMCA agreement between the U.S., Mexico and Canada is a big deal for agriculture and there is news that it is almost ready for ratification by Congress. OFBF's State and National Policy Sr. Director Jack Irvin has more details at <https://ofbf.org/2019/12/10/farm-bureau-asks-for-swift-usmca-approval/>
- **OFBF Website – International Trade Markets Crucial to Farmers:** As more headlines detail tariffs, trade wars and import/export markets, we need to know how local crops are ground zero in this debate. More information is at: <https://ofbf.org/2018/04/30/international-trade-markets/>
- **OFBF Website – U.S., Japan Reach Trade Agreement:** Trade negotiations between the United States and Japan have led to an early agreement in the areas of market access for certain agriculture and industrial goods. More information can be found at: <https://ofbf.org/2019/09/26/u-s-japan-reach-trade-agreement/>

- *Editorial – Ohio Manufacturers, Ag Producers Need the USMCA*: Manufacturing and agriculture fuel Ohio's economy. Both could use an immediate shot in the arm. That is why Farm Bureau calls on Ohio's members of Congress to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Read Adam Sharp's Op-Ed at: <https://ofbf.org/2019/08/23/usmca-op-ed/>
- *OFBF Podcast – Some Trade Wins for U.S. Agriculture*: OFBF Chief Economist John Newton tells OFBF Director of Media Relations Ty Higgins that big wins with the USMCA and Japan may get the ball rolling for more bilateral trade deals and could bring positive momentum to trade talks with China. Access the podcast at: <https://ofbf.org/2019/09/17/some-trade-wins/>
- *AEDE Agricultural Report 2018-001 – As Chinese Trade Tensions Build, Do Ohio Producers Need to Worry?* The likelihood of a full-blown trade war between the U.S. and China has increased substantially in the past few months, each country either implementing or proposing tariffs against each other's imports. Such tariffs would result in higher machinery costs, lower corn, soybean and pork prices for U.S. producers, and a decrease in farm net worth. Access the OSU - Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Developmental Economics (AEDE) report at: [https://ofbf.org/app/uploads/2018/06/AEDE\\_Agricultural\\_Report\\_5\\_15\\_18.pdf](https://ofbf.org/app/uploads/2018/06/AEDE_Agricultural_Report_5_15_18.pdf)

### ***Rural Participation in the 2020 Census***

Census data is used to determine legislative representation, government funding and benefits distribution, disaster assistance and private business development. In addition, Census workers have a harder time counting rural homes. Although residents will have the opportunity to participate in the count in person, by phone or over the Internet, an increasing reliance on electronic responses will be a challenge for many communities that lack reliable telecom and/or broadband infrastructure.

The 2020 Census provides opportunities for community leaders to play a greater role in helping residents participate in the 2020 Census. County Farm Bureaus are asked to lend active support to the *Complete Count Committees* (CCC) program.

Additional information/materials on this subject:

- *OFBF Website – Hiring Takes Place for 2020 Census*: The U.S. Census Bureau has launched a national recruitment effort to hire approximately 500,000 temporary workers to help conduct the 2020 Census. Additional information can be found at: <https://ofbf.org/2019/10/23/2020-census-hire-workers/>
- *United States Census 2020 Website*: Participating in the Census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau. Results of the 2020 Census will affect community funding, congressional representation, and more. Additional information can be found at: <https://2020census.gov/en/what-is-2020-census.html>
- *United States Census Bureau Website - Complete Count Committees*: Through collaborative partnerships, the U.S. Census Bureau and community leaders can count everyone. Find out about the Complete Count Committees (CCC) program at: [https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/complete\\_count.html](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/complete_count.html)
- *United States Census Bureau Website - Economic Development in Ohio*: An Ohio grant writer needed reliable data to complete a grant request to address "food deserts." Census Bureau data identified areas with no grocery stores coupled with vulnerable local populations. The demographics helped her create a grant to support entrepreneurs opening grocery stores in these

areas. More information on this and other programs at: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census/guidance/data-uses.html>

**Remember, you are not limited to these materials** - Feel free to discuss additional topics and issues generated from the local newspaper, other publications and/or key events happening in your neighborhood. Additional information on possible discussion topics and resources can be found on the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation website at <https://ofbf.org/2015/11/23/what-are-community-councils/>

### ***Keep in Touch with Farm Bureau***

Need additional help? Contact your county Farm Bureau office for assistance. Please let Amy Hurst know if you have any other questions via e-mail at [ahurst@ofbf.org](mailto:ahurst@ofbf.org) or by phone at 614.246.8262.

Remember to send your council meeting forms and correspondence directly to your county Farm Bureau.

Many of Farm Bureau's action plans started with conversation around a kitchen table, living room or front porch; lively discussion continues to develop using web applications, too. Your participation as a community council member makes sure that our organization continues to focus on critical issues, create better policy and helps people work together to get things done.

We look forward to visiting with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale R. Arnold" followed by a horizontal line.

Dale Arnold  
Director, Energy, Utility & Local Government Policy  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation



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## **POLICY AND ISSUE DISCUSSION SHEET**

### **Agricultural Trade at a Glance**

#### *Defining the Issue*

Agricultural trade benefits American farmers and consumers. Exports enable farmers to sell goods into new markets, helps them generate income and invest in their operations. Imports give consumers a greater variety of specialty products; they can buy staples such as fruits and vegetables throughout the entire year, too. U.S. agricultural exports worldwide are worth about \$140 billion a year. The nation's major Ag trading partners include Canada and Mexico (\$39 billion), China (\$20 billion), Japan (\$14 billion) and the European Union (\$12 billion).

#### *Trade Development with Major Partners*

##### *USMCA Agreement*

In November 2018, Canada joined the U.S. and Mexico in the successor to NAFTA, the U.S. - Mexico - Canada Agreement (USMCA). Implemented in 1994, NAFTA established a free-trade area between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Tariff elimination between the U.S. and Canada did not extend to Canadian imports of dairy and poultry products. Tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for these products were established to comply with World Trade Organization (WTO) requirements.

In the new USMCA, Canada has agreed to phase-in increased quota access for U.S. dairy products, chicken, eggs and turkey, as well as end a substitute pricing formula for skim milk solids, milk protein concentrate and infant formula. Canada agreed to treat wheat imports in the same manner as domestic wheat for grading and pricing, too.

Agricultural tariffs between the U.S. and Mexico will remain at zero. Provisions regarding biotechnology and geographic indications are included.

Sanitary/Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) include scientifically based, nondiscriminatory and transparent food safety protocols.

Dispute settlement procedures which give participants the right to challenge anti-dumping and countervailing duty issues in front of an expert panel with members from the countries involved are retained in the new agreement.

USMCA passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a 385 to 41 vote on December 19, 2019. It now must be passed by the U.S. Senate. OFBF will continue to push for passage of USMCA in early 2020.

### *China*

China has grown to be a major agricultural market that rivals Canada and Mexico. China sends the U.S. processed fruits & vegetables, fruit & vegetable juices, snack foods, spices and fresh vegetables. China imports dairy, pork, hay, corn, wheat, and processed fruit products. However, the largest U.S. agricultural product going to the nation is soybeans. In recent years over 50 percent of US annual soybean production has been purchased by the Chinese.

Since the onset of a trade war in 2018, both nations have imposed retaliatory tariffs. While much the dispute focuses on metals, electronics and other manufactured goods, many first strike measures involve agricultural products.

Many experts see agricultural tariffs between the two nations as temporary and being leveraged to achieve larger goals. However, these actions have potential long-term impacts. Consumers could see higher prices and it might be more difficult for farmers to reestablish export connections if producers from other nations enter the market to fill demand.

### *European Union*

The United States and the European Union have agreed to begin negotiations for a trade agreement. The goal is to expand the world's largest commercial relationship, currently with \$1 trillion of trade in goods and services annually and \$3.7 trillion in two-way direct investment. The U.S. exported \$12.7 billion in agricultural products to the EU in 2018 while the EU exported \$23.7 billion in agricultural products to the U.S.

Disputes around SPS measures and their impact on trade have been a significant part of the agricultural relationship between the U.S. and EU. Continuing barriers to the export of U.S. beef, pork and poultry, along with

the slow approval process for biotech products, are major negotiation points. Both the U.S. and the EU adhere to science-based WTO SPS measures that protect human, animal and plant health.

The U.S. follows a risk-assessment approach for food safety while the EU is additionally guided by the “precautionary principle,” which holds that where the possibility of a harmful effects exist, nonscientific risk management strategies may be adopted. The U.S. views the use of the precautionary principle as inconsistent with the WTO SPS Agreement and is a basis for scientifically unjustified barriers to trade.

Farm Bureau has asked for substantive changes to the EU approach for approving the products of biotechnology. The EU system for regulating biotech products must be science-based and efficient in generating approvals for U.S. products.

The EU systems of geographic indications (GIs) for foods and beverages that designate their production from a specific region are legally protected for their original producers. The U.S. has opposed recognizing geographical names for foods that would inhibit the marketability and competitiveness of U.S. food products.

### *U.S. – Japan Agreement*

The U.S. - Japan Trade Agreement will take effect on January 1, 2020, and is designed to enhanced market access. The agreement will enable American producers to compete more effectively with countries that currently have preferential tariffs in the Japanese market.

The agreement commits Japan to provide substantial market access to American food and agricultural products by eliminating tariffs, enacting meaningful tariff reductions, or allowing a specific quantity of imports at a low duty. Tariff treatment for the products covered in this agreement will match the tariffs that Japan provides to countries in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Products benefitting immediately from the enhanced access will be fresh and frozen beef and pork. Products valued at \$3.0 billion will benefit from staged tariff elimination. This group includes wine, cheese and whey, ethanol, frozen poultry, processed pork, fresh cherries, beef offal, frozen potatoes, oranges, egg products and tomato paste. Moreover, tariffs will be eliminated on another group of \$1.3 billion of U.S. farm products including, almonds, blueberries, cranberries, walnuts, sweet corn, grain sorghum, food supplements, broccoli and prunes. For some products, preferential market

access will be provided through the creation of Country Specific Quotas (CSQs), which provide access for a specified quantity of imports from the United States at a preferential tariff rate, generally zero. CSQ access will cover wheat and wheat products, malt, glucose, fructose, corn starch, potato starch and inulin.

This agreement provides for the limited use of safeguards by Japan for surges in imports of beef, pork, whey and oranges, which will be phased out over time.

The United States will provide tariff elimination or reduction on 42 tariff lines for agricultural imports from Japan valued at \$40 million in 2018. Products include certain perennial plants and cut flowers, persimmons, green tea, chewing gum, certain confectionary products and soy sauce. Also, the U.S. has agreed to modify its global WTO tariff rate quota for imports of Japanese beef, enabling Japanese beef producers to compete for a larger share of the global trade Trusted Reliable Quality (TRQ).

President Trump and Prime Minister Abe have agreed on further negotiations to address remaining areas of interest to each government.

### *AFBF Policy*

Farm Bureau strongly supports agricultural issues being included in all U.S. trade negotiations, as well as passage of the U.S. – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA)

Farm Bureau policy for trade negotiations includes as objectives:

- Include all agricultural products and policies in the negotiations;
- Eliminate non-tariff trade barriers;
- Ensure market access for biotechnology products;
- Address issues concerning import sensitive products;
- Oppose the Precautionary Principle; and
- Oppose the use of geographic indicators.

### *Discussion Questions*

1. Of the trade negotiations and disputes detailed above, which impact you the most?
2. Have you seen any direct impact of agricultural trade developments on local farm production operations and/or in neighborhood markets?

3. How do your neighbors view trade issues? What questions and comments do they have as you visit agribusinesses, food markets and other business outlets in the neighborhood?
4. What needs to be done to enhance collaboration between nations involved in agricultural trade? What can be done to show the impact and or benefits of international trade at the local level? What should be the county Farm Bureau's leadership role on this issue?





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## **POLICY AND ISSUE DISCUSSION SHEET**

### **Making it Count – Rural Participation in the US Census**

#### *Defining the Issue*

Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution mandates that the country conduct a population count once every 10 years. The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790. Participating in the census is required by law.

Many of Ohio's rural communities are at risk of falling through the cracks in the upcoming census. Geographically, census workers have a harder time counting rural homes because they're more likely to be spread apart and be hidden from public roads. Although residents will have the opportunity to participate in the count in person, by phone or over the Internet, an increasing reliance on electronic responses will be a challenge for many communities that lack reliable telecom and/or broadband infrastructure.

Making the count in rural neighborhoods is critical. Census data is used in the following areas:

- **Legislative Representation:** Population counts determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to redraw congressional and state legislative districts.
- **Government Programs:** Over 100 government programs rely on local census data to distribute funding and benefits. These include community development, education, water and waste disposal systems, food assistance, as well as transportation and communication infrastructure development.
- **Disaster Assistance and Safety:** Census data helps communities create effective disaster relief planning, as well as secure resources for local hospitals, fire departments and law enforcement.
- **Business Development:** Private businesses rely on census data to help them make decisions on opening new stores, expanding business operations and what products and services they should offer.

The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the United States Code. These laws provide work authority and protection for information collected. These protections include:

- Confidentiality: Answers produce statistics only. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release responses in any way that could identify individuals. All persons are kept anonymous; this includes the respondent and anyone else in the home.
- Legal Protection: Private data is protected; answers cannot be used against the respondent in any government agency or court.
- Record Releases: Many persons engaged in genealogy find raw census data invaluable. Federal law prohibits the release of census data for 72 years. This helps protect the privacy of persons involved in adoption and related activities for the recognized span of a lifetime.
- Cyber Security: Census Bureau policy follows industry best practices and federal requirements. Information technology (IT) is designed to identify, prevent, detect, contain, defend and respond to cyber threats.

The Census Bureau does not go away. Regional offices conduct continuous surveys to supply the nation with statistics on people, places and the economy. A network professional field representatives continue to gather data by personal visit or electronic means. Some families in a community might be asked to participate in additional annual surveys. These yearly counts include housing, income and program participation, business activity/patterns and population projections.

*Complete Count Committees* - The 2020 Census provides opportunities local governments, community based organizations, faith-based groups, schools and the media to play a greater role in developing partners to educate and motivate residents to participate in the 2020 Census. The *Complete Count Committees* (CCC) program helps stakeholders create community awareness. CCC activities include:

- Utilizing local knowledge, influence, and resources to educate communities and promote the census through locally based, targeted outreach efforts.
- Providing a vehicle for coordinating and nurturing cooperative efforts between state and local governments, communities and the Census Bureau.
- Helping the Census Bureau get a complete count in 2020 through partnerships with local governments and community organizations.

Through collaborative partnerships, the U.S. Census Bureau plans on working with community stakeholders to reach as many people as possible.

### *AFBF Policy*

We believe government agencies have the right to collect fundamental data on population counts for its census purposes. This data would include the number of people at the residence their names and birth years. Any information requested in addition to this data must be voluntarily given by the individuals.

#### **We Support:**

- A more granular data set than U.S. census data blocks being used in determining broadband coverage.
- Adding price reporting for corn and its co-products, including dry distillers grains (DDGs), to the U.S. Census Bureau Current Industrial Reports as well as to the Bureau's domestic and international market reports.

#### **We Oppose:**

- The counting of undocumented or unauthorized persons in the U.S. Census relative to redistricting.
- The American Community Survey from the U.S. Department of Commerce because it aggressively and unnecessarily invades individual privacy with its data collection efforts.
- The use of fines to coerce citizens to submit to intrusive, mandatory personal data collection efforts by the federal government.
- The use of statistical formulas or estimates in census taking.

### *Discussion Questions*

1. How many census counts have you been involved in as an active participant? Counting both traditional 10-year and specialized annual surveys, what was the simplest and the most complex forms you have had to fill out as part of a US Census?
2. What government programs and/or private business activities do you feel accurate census data might benefit your community? What programs and business activities might be negatively impacted by the statistics?
3. According to the Census Bureau's research, some of the groups most at risk of being undercounted are low income persons, homeless persons,

undocumented immigrants, migrant laborers, young mobile persons and children under five years old. What can be done in local communities to ensure these groups of people are accurately counted?

4. What needs to be done to enhance collaboration between the Census Bureau and community stakeholders? What should be the county's leadership role on this issue? Should the County Farm Bureau have representation on the local Complete County Committee?