



Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance

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NEAFA Supports Secretary Perdue's Leadership in Canadian Trade Discussions

The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance applauds Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue's efforts to create fair access to the world market for US dairy and wheat during his first international trip as secretary. Perdue traveled to Toronto for a series of meetings with Canadian officials, including Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay, and current Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne.

Alliance President Andy Dugan said "The Canadian milk pricing system pushes down world prices for milk powder and hurts U.S. dairy producers and exporters." Dugan commented "The Alliance thanks USDA Secretary Perdue for moving so quickly to address trade issues with Canada, one of our largest trading partners."

The discussion between Perdue and MacAulay centered on efforts to consider renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), leading with dairy and wheat issues. Perdue spoke about the Canadian "Class 7" milk pricing strategy that supports unfair competition between US and Canadian ultra-filtered milk on the world market.

Canadian dairy farmers receive some of the highest prices in the world for the milk they produce. The Alliance questions the Class 7 policy that allows Canada, with one of the world's highest milk prices, to offer ultra-filtered milk at prices far below those offered by all other major dairy suppliers, including New Zealand, Australia, Europe and the United States. The Alliance supports Perdue's efforts to eliminate this class immediately to stop hurting US exports around the world as well as into Canada.

The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance is a 300 member network committed to supporting a thriving northeast agricultural community through advocacy, education and collaboration. Members of the Alliance include feed, seed, fertilizer companies, financial service providers, transportation companies, veterinarians, nutritional services providers, and professional advisors.

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