



## NRA Position

- **The rendering industry supports modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** to improve industry trade with Mexico and Canada.
- **U.S. renderers seek market access for ruminant meat and bone meal (MBM) to Mexico.** Access to the Mexican market would restore lost trade worth approximately \$30 million.

Due to unjustified sanitary trade barriers, the U.S. cannot sell ruminant MBM into Mexico even though both countries are classified as “negligible risk,” according to the internationally-recognized World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The OIE recommends that only “controlled risk” and “unknown risk” countries NOT export ruminant MBM. Adopting consistent standards for animal health certification following OIE standards among NAFTA countries would eliminate this trade barrier and allow trade of ruminant MBM between the U.S. and Mexico.

- **The U.S. rendering industry fully expects all rendered products will continue at zero tariffs as has been the case since NAFTA took effect.**
- **The U.S. needs access to mixed animal fat and used cooking oil (UCO) from Canada.** Currently, due to archaic bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) regulations, the U.S. cannot import animal fat and UCO from Canada mixed with fats from small ruminants, such as lamb or goat. This blocks a large portion of tallow and UCO from entering the U.S. from Canada. The U.S. rendering industry endorses USDA’s proposed Small Ruminant Rule, urges the Administration to finalize the rule and strongly supports gaining access to Canadian tallow and UCO.

## NAFTA Benefits for Rendering Exports

Exports are vital to the American rendering industry. Sixteen percent of total U.S. rendered production is exported around the world. In particular, trade in the North American market is extremely important to the U.S. rendering industry.

The U.S. rendering industry has greatly benefitted from the tariff-eliminating effects of NAFTA. U.S. exports of rendered products to Mexico in 1990 (pre-NAFTA) were \$102 million dollars. In 2016, exports to Mexico reached \$279 million (a 179 percent increase). Over the same period, U.S. exports of rendered products to Canada grew from \$20 million to \$112 million (a 460 percent increase).