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Trump signs USMCA, waiting on Canada to ratify

BY ASHLEY RICE   
FarmWeek

President Donald Trump ceremoniously signed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Wednesday surrounded by farmers, ranchers, and manufacturing, auto and energy workers.

“This is a colossal victory for our farmers, ranchers, energy workers, factory workers and American workers in all 50 states, and you could almost say beyond,” stated Trump. “The USMCA is estimated to add another 1.2% to our GDP (gross domestic product) and create countless new American jobs.”

If you’re keeping track, that’s two countries down and one to go, as Canada still needs to ratify the agreement, which Mexico previously approved. The agreement will take effect 90 days after all countries have approved it.

Calling it a “tremendous breakthrough for American agriculture,” Trump estimated that annual total exports to Canada and Mexico will be $315 million.

Trump listed some of the benefits of USMCA to U.S. agriculture, including Canada providing greater access to American dairy, increased poultry and egg exports, and Canada giving fair treatment to U.S. wheat.

“This agreement is a great and vital victory that will set the stage for increased agricultural opportunity in 2020 and the years to come,” said Richard Guebert Jr., Illinois Farm Bureau president. “One in every 5 acres in Illinois is planted to feed Mexican and Canadian consumers. As farmers prepare for the 2020 planting season, hope is on the horizon for our Illinois farmers to sell what they grow.”

Other components of USMCA will benefit manufacturers, auto makers and steel workers. In addition, there are new labor protections, intellectual property protections, textile industry protections and new standards for the environment.

“Together, we’re building a glorious future that is raised, grown and made right here in the glorious USA,” commented Trump. “It’s a real honor to be involved and to have helped so many people.”

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