



CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD TRADE ALLIANCE

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NEWS RELEASE

CAFTA Welcomes Alberta and Saskatchewan Pork Producers

Ottawa, Tuesday February 21, 2006 – The Board of Directors of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance has unanimously approved an application from Alberta Pork and Sask Pork to share a full membership in CAFTA.

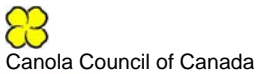
Sask Pork represents Saskatchewan's 500 pork producers. About 10% of Canada's total production of pork comes from Saskatchewan. Over half of Canada's pork is exported. "Given that the Canadian pork industry is export dependent, trade is imperative," says Sask Pork Chairman Shirley Voldeng. "We are very supportive of action to reduce global barriers to trade and increase market access for Canadian pork products abroad. Sask Pork, along with Alberta Pork, felt it was essential to align our organizations with those supporting free trade, prompting our joint membership with CAFTA."

Alberta Pork represents 1,000 pork producers who account for about 15% of total Canadian pork production. Alberta pork producers need improved access to international markets. "During the December Hong Kong WTO negotiations, the Canadian pork industry was very disappointed in the low key Canadian government support for improved market access," says Jurgen Preugschas, Chairman of Alberta Pork. "With a new government in Ottawa, Canada must now take a stronger position on the market access agenda. CAFTA has always understood this and will strongly represent such. This is one of the reasons Sask Pork and Alberta Pork have taken a membership in CAFTA."

"CAFTA is very pleased with the support for its goals from Alberta and Saskatchewan pork producers," says CAFTA President Liam McCreery. "The addition of pork producers to our membership strengthens our voice nationally and internationally as we speak out for trade liberalization, not only to benefit Canadian agriculture and food, but to bring benefits to agriculture and food sectors around the world."

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The Canadian Agri-Food Trade represents producers, processors and exporters of agriculture and agri-food products, as well as suppliers of agricultural inputs. Accounting for over 80% of Canada's agriculture and food exports, and more than 60% of farm cash receipts, CAFTA's members are united in their dependence on trade, and in their need for a liberalized international trading environment.



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