

**Agri-food exporters welcome commitment to ensure well-functioning global food supply chains**

April 23, 2020 – *Dan Darling, President of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) today issued the following statement in response to the pledge by Canada and other WTO Members to ensure open and predictable trade for food and agricultural products amid COVID-19.*

“We applaud [commitments by Canada and 23 WTO members](#) to keep international borders open to agri-food to help maintain the stability of a network of sectors that need to remain robust and resilient for the workers they employ and for the consumers they feed.

“We’re pleased to see the recognition that supply chains must remain functioning to ensure the free movement of agricultural products and agriculture inputs.

“We welcome commitments to not impose agriculture export restrictions that can impact trade flows, food availability and result in price volatility, and can lead to shortages of essential food products and inputs. This initiative will help avoid any unnecessary disruption of supply chains and ensure the adequate production and distribution of critical agri-food products.

“Despite the near shutdown of economies around the world, global agri-food markets remain relatively stable, grocery store shelves remain stocked and food prices have not spiked. This is directly because governments around the world are recognizing that keeping borders open to essential agri-food is vitally necessary to prevent shortages and chaos.

“Commitments to not impose new barriers, to not stockpile food products destined for export and to maintain open dialogue amongst global trading partners will ensure food prices and food security remain stable.

“We will continue to work hard to ensure Canadians and people around the world have the food they need at prices they can afford. Keeping trade free and open will be key to those efforts.”

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*CAFTA is the voice of Canadian agriculture and agri-food exporters, representing the 90% of farmers who depend on trade and the ranchers, producers, processors and agri-food exporters who want to grow the economy through better access to international markets. This includes the beef, pork, meat, grains, cereals, pulses, soybeans, canola as well as the sugar, malt, and processed food industries. The sectors CAFTA represents 90 per cent of Canada’s agri-food exports and support over a million jobs in urban and rural communities across Canada.*

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