

International Statements Opposing the Inclusion of Dairy in the Trans-Pacific Partnership

1. “TPP Should Keep Dairy ‘Off the Table’” by Citizens Trade Campaign (United States)
2. “Keep Dairy ‘Off the Table’ in the Trans-Pacific Partnership” by Teamsters Canada (Canada)
3. “Solidarity Message” by Hokkaido Farmer’s Union (Japan)
4. “JA Group’s Position Regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership” by JA Zenchu (Japan)
5. “Mexico’s CANILEC” from Inside U.S. Trade and CANILEC’s website (Mexico)
6. “Trade Talks” by Dairy Farmers of Canada (Canada)
7. “A Resolution from Unions on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement” by the International Union of Food Workers Trans-Tasman Food Sector (New Zealand)
8. “Request to Confirm the Firm Policy of Japanese Administration through the Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiation” by Japan Dairy Network (Japan)
9. “Statement of Ben Burkett, NFFC President, Mississippi Association of Cooperatives Director, and Farmer” by National Family Farm Coalition (United States)
10. “NFU Weighs in on Trade Negotiations” by National Farmers Union (United States)
11. “NFU and JA Zenchu Statement on the Lima Round of TPP Negotiations” by National Farmers Union (United States) and JA Zenchu (Japan)

Contacts:

Arthur Stamoulis (Citizens Trade Campaign)
(202) 494-8826, arthur@citizenstrade.org

For Immediate Release
Thursday, August 22, 2013

TPP Should Keep Dairy “Off the Table”

Dairy Farmers and Processing Workers throughout Pacific Rim Express Shared Concerns Prior to Lima

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei — As international trade negotiators prepare to meet in Bandar Seri Begawan for a negotiating summit aimed at pushing the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) towards conclusion, farm and labor organizations throughout the Pacific Rim are demanding that dairy be kept out of the agreement. Whether countries will be forced to open their dairy markets to New Zealand’s monopolistic dairy export industry, thus undercutting local producers, is a major issue yet to be resolved in the ongoing TPP negotiations now entering their seventeenth round.

“It is not in the interest of family-owned and -operated dairies to open greater access to a country with a consolidated entity controlling the dairy sector,” said [Roger Johnson, president of the National Farmers Union \(NFU\)](#). “U.S. trade negotiators should not force other countries in the TPP to dismantle supply management programs, especially as efforts are currently underway to implement a similar system in the United States. Dairy should not be part of any TPP agreement if these inconsistencies are left unresolved.”

“The Teamsters are North America’s dairy union. We support trade that is fair and trade deals that keep and create jobs. That’s why we are concerned about the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations,” said [James P. Hoffa, general president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters](#). “Without a strong Labor Chapter and protections for dairy workers throughout the supply chain, the TPP should not be signed. We join the dairy farmers of North America and Japan and throughout the region, and demand that dairy be taken ‘off the table’ in the TPP talks.”

“With just under 50,000 dairy farmers left in the U.S., they deserve to have sensible policies enacted on a domestic level, not to be crushed by unfair trade deals that threaten their ability to recover their costs of production. It makes no sense for our nation’s dairy farmers to compete against dairy farmers in New Zealand and Australia, the lowest-cost producers in the world,” said [Ben Burkett, a Mississippi farmer and president of the National Family Farm Coalition](#). “We are also anxious about the expanded imports of milk substitutes, such as Milk Protein Concentrate, which could be substituted in many products without being labeled clearly for customers.”

[Teamsters Canada](#), which represents more than 6,000 dairy industry workers in Calgary, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, has also explicitly called for TPP negotiators to “keep dairy ‘off the table’ in the trade talks convening in Lima.” In a written statement, they “respectfully remind the head of the Canadian delegation, Kirsten Hillman, and Trade Minister Ed Fast that Canada has joined several trade pacts, including NAFTA, and maintained supply management. Like the dairy farmers and processors with whom we work, Teamsters Canada expects the government will defend the stability of the Canadian dairy industry, which supports over 200,000 good, middle-class Canadian jobs.”

In March, the [Dairy Farmers of Canada](#) published an article about the Singapore Round of TPP negotiations stating that they “will continue to closely monitor trade talks and oppose any proposals that could negatively affect the Canadian dairy supply management system, which is crucial to maintaining the prosperity and viability of the Canadian dairy industry.”

“If Japan participates in the TPP and abolishes import tariffs... dairy farmers will be forced to give up farming, dairy workers will lose their jobs and their communities will be ruined,” said [Fujio Yomada, chairperson of Hokkaido Farmer’s Union](#), which represents 27,000 farmers in the agriculture-intensive northernmost portion of Japan.

“The TPP negotiations endanger food sovereignty, coexistence of diversified agriculture, food safety and stable food supplies. We can never accept it,” he said, citing government estimates that the TPP’s could displace as many as 56,000 Japanese dairy jobs.

In March, [Akira Banzai, president of JA ZENCHU](#), the central union of agricultural cooperatives in Japan, issued a press statement saying, “I, together with the farmers around the nation, strongly protest and denounce the Prime Minister’s decision [to enter the TPP negotiations]” and that Japan’s dairy and other sensitive agricultural sectors must be excluded from tariff eliminations.

Draft minutes from a February 20th meeting of the Mexican dairy industry organization [CANILEC](#) also reiterate its position is that finished milk products should not be included in the TPP negotiations, and that they are still studying the question of raw materials.

###



Teamsters Canada: Keep Dairy “off the table” in Trans-Pacific Partnership

Like our Teamster brothers and sisters south of the border, Teamsters Canada represents dairy industry workers throughout the supply chain. Our Locals in Calgary, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver represent more than 6000 dairy industry workers. It is on their behalf that we call on the Canadian government negotiators to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) to keep dairy “off the table” in the trade talks convening in Lima, Peru, 15-24 May.

Canada joined the TPP talks late last year, during the 15th round of negotiations, sitting with eleven other nations at the table, including a couple countries that want Canada to dismantle our dairy supply management system. New Zealand and the U.S., in particular, have made dairy market access a “sensitive issue” in the TPP talks, one that will be decided at the political level by the chief negotiators or even heads of state, later this year, during the endgame negotiations at the APEC summit in Bali.

We respectfully remind the head of the Canadian delegation, Kirsten Hillman, and Trade Minister Ed Fast that Canada has joined several trade pacts, including the NAFTA, and maintained supply management. Like the dairy farmers and processors with whom we work, Teamsters Canada expects the government will defend the stability of the Canadian dairy industry, which supports over 200,000 good middle class Canadian jobs, in these TPP talks.

In addition, and in solidarity with U.S. Teamsters and civil society “Fair Trade” networks throughout the twelve TPP countries, we further call on the Harper government to make sure the final TPP deal:

- Protects workers and their right to organize, in a strong Labour Chapter that incorporates core ILO conventions and protects those rights through dispute settlement regimes that are equal or superior to the sanctions that protect commercial rights;
- Protects the environment by incorporating the obligations of the several multilateral environmental agreements among the parties;
- Protects food safety and family farms by opposing imports of food products that do not meet our safety standards with respect to pesticides, inspections, packaging and labeling;
- Allows Parliament and provincial authorities to enact government procurement programs in the public interest; and
- Denies greater rights to foreign investors than to Canadian firms through investor-to-state dispute settlement mechanisms.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters is North America’s dairy union and we support trade that is fair. Teamsters Canada urges our negotiators to safeguard the interests of our workers and the values of civil society against the ambitions of multinational corporations and the so-called “free trade” lobby in Ottawa and at the TPP table.

Teamsters Canada is a labour organization with over 125,000 members. It is affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which has 1,400,000 members across North America.

Solidarity Message from Hokkaido Farmer's Union

We, Hokkaido Farmer's Union are organized by twenty seven thousand farmers among forty two thousand in Hokkaido, the northernmost part of Japan. Our mission is to improve social and economic status of farmers, and many dairy farmers are core members of ours.

Being recognized as the food producing base of Japan, agriculture, forestry and fisheries including dairy industry has been developed as a main industry in Hokkaido. Therefore, industries associated with agriculture and food industries such as food processing and dairy products are prospered and indispensable for local economy, community and employment.

Dairy farming in Hokkaido, in particular, stands for 57 % of total heads raised in Japan and 52 % of raw milk production, and forms an extensive dairy area together with dairy product plants in operation.

In main dairy areas farmers and their communities concentrate and depend on dairy farming and business under severe climate and geographical conditions. And it is very difficult for them to convert to other agricultural sectors.

If Japan participates in the TPP and abolish import tariffs causing the flood of less expensive products into domestic market, dairy farming and business will be seriously damaged. Dairy farmers are forced to give up farming, dairy workers will lose their jobs and their communities will be ruined.

The prefectural authorities of Hokkaido released the estimate that those products with little quality difference such as butter, powdered skim milk and cheese would be replaced by imported products. The damage to the dairy farming and industry will be decrease of production by JPY 712.3 billion or approximately USD 7,268 million and fifty six thousand jobs will be lost. These damages in the dairy farming and industry stand for 45 % and 50 % respectively of the whole economy of Hokkaido.

Unexceptional tariff abolition including sensitive products such as dairy and other agricultural products is being discussed in the TPP negotiation will endanger food sovereignty, coexistence of diversified agriculture, food safety and stable supply of food. We can never accept it.

The TPP will ruin agriculture and farm communities of every country. TPP will damage employment and livelihood of ordinary people. We are strongly opposing to the TPP.

Let us stand up and oppose to the TPP hand in hand!!

Fujio YAMADA, Chairperson of Hokkaido Farmer's Union

JA Group's Position regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

JA ZENCHU

Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan

[The TPP negotiations are distinctly different from EPAs concluded up to the present.]

- The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, which require the elimination of all tariffs without exception, will certainly deliver a heavy blow to Japan's agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as well as its local communities and economies. In addition, they are likely to trigger critical issues such as Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISD), food safety and security, medical care, and insurance, directly affecting the lives of Japanese people and threatening Japan's sovereignty. The TPP negotiations are completely different in nature from any economic partnership agreements (EPAs) that Japan has thus far entered into, and they entail irrevocable risks which might drastically alter the state of our nation.

[Farmers in Japan stand together to adamantly oppose Japan's participation in the TPP talks]

- Representing Japanese farmers' strong resentment against Prime Minister Abe's announcement of Japan's participation in the TPP negotiations, the JA Group immediately issued a statement of opposition. (Attachment 1)

[There is a growing public concern over the TPP]

- Concern about the TPP negotiations is widespread not only among farmers but also among the general public. In the opinion polls conducted by the nationwide newspapers, 80% of the respondents pointed out the inadequacy of the relevant information disclosure by the government, 70% expressed anxiety about a possible increase in imports of agricultural products and a decline in food safety standards, and 60% demanded the exclusion of some agricultural products from import liberalization as a precondition for Japan's participation in the TPP talks. (Attachment 2)

[90% of the local assemblies expressed oppositions to the TPP]

- In Japan's rural areas, in particular, agriculture, forestry and fisheries play a significant role in the respective local economies and communities. Reflecting this reality, 90% of the prefectural assemblies have adopted opinions expressing oppositions to and/or preserving a cautious stance towards Japan's participation in the TPP negotiations. (Attachment 2)

[The JA Group will continue to carry out campaigns against the TPP, in collaboration with all levels of Japanese society]

- Reflecting the voices of the people, JA Group is committed to gain wider support for our aim, through extensive collaborations with all parties concerned, including consumers, medical experts, and those engaged in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The JA Group's all-out campaigns to preserve Japan's food and Japanese people's livelihood by protecting them against the threat of TPP shall not cease.

[The government must establish a negotiating policy in line with the LDP's resolution]

- Even if Japan is to participate in the TPP negotiations, the government must establish a firm negotiating policy so that it can dispel the fears of farmers, and this policy must be in absolute compliance with the resolution adopted by the governing party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), on March 13, 2013. (Attachment 3)

Mexico's CANILEC

From Inside U.S. Trade:

“Canilec’s position on TPP is that finished dairy products should not be included in the negotiation, although it is willing to discuss proposals by TPP partners with respect to dairy inputs, according to March 1 minutes of a Canilec board meeting posted on its website.”

CANILEC WEBSITE

Minutes of meeting -- Feb 20, 2012

Point 8, 3rd Bullet:

Llevamos a cabo una reunión a la que fueron invitados todos los afiliados de CANILEC con la finalidad de darles a conocer los avances de la negociación en el marco del TPP, y de las decisiones urgentes que cada uno de los países debe tomar, como es el caso del intercambio de listas de los productos que pueden ser sujetos a una desgravación arancelaria inmediata. Nuevamente se manifestó la postura de la Cámara en que los productos lecheros terminados no sean incluidos en esta negociación, en cuanto a materias primas podemos estudiar las peticiones de nuestras contrapartes.

Paraphrase:

We held a meeting with all CANILEC members to update them on TPP.

We stated again our position that finished milk products should not be included in these negotiations, as far as raw materials we can study the positions of other parties.

CANILEC

“Nuevamente se manifestó la postura de la Cámara en que los productos lecheros terminados no sean incluidos en esta negociación, en cuanto a materias primas podemos estudiar las peticiones de nuestras contrapartes.”

Canilec Executive Council, February 2013
(at Point #8)

[The position of the Chamber (CANILEC) was manifested again that the finished dairy products not be included in this negotiation, as far as raw materials we can study the petitions of our counterparts.]

Trade talks

March 11th, 2013



By: [Wally Smith](#)

Tags: [TPP](#), [CETA](#), [trade](#), [supply management](#)

Category:

[Farm Policy](#)

This week, I am in Singapore, as our Canadian negotiators meet their counterparts in the 16th round of negotiations of the **Trans Pacific Partnership**. In the hallway, discussions include the possibility of Japan joining the talks and pharmaceutical patents. I have had the opportunity to discuss with our colleagues from the US dairy industry as well.

I am here to represent dairy and poultry farmers in Canada and to remind negotiators that our farmers understand and support the government's priority on the economy. We are a stable and consistent contributor in every province; there are investments and spin-offs throughout the agricultural value chain and social fabric of Canada's rural communities.

We also recognize the role that trade plays for many sectors in Canada and the country's overall prosperity. That's why we continue to support the government's balanced trade negotiating position.

The Canadian government has successfully concluded several trade deals and maintained supply management. I continue to expect the government will maintain its position to defend supply management in various trade deals, including CETA and other trade deals it negotiates.

DFC will continue to closely monitor trade talks and oppose any proposals that could negatively affect the Canadian dairy supply management system, which is crucial to maintaining the prosperity and viability of the Canadian dairy industry. Canadian farm families remain committed to supply Canadians with high quality Canadian milk, for the making of a multitude of dairy foods.



ASIA/PACIFIC

International Union of Food Workers (IUF) Trans-Tasman Food Sector

Auckland 10 May 2013

A resolution from Unions on the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA)

The Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement is a trade agreement, which could have profound effects on the lives of workers in the US, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan and Australia.

Trans-Tasman Food Sector Unions move the following motion to this IUF Trans-Tasman Food Sector Meeting in order to ensure the agreement does not erode the rights of workers in participating countries.

1. The TPPA should not restrict the right of working people to access affordable generic medicines. Countries should also have the right to subsidise medicine costs for its citizens, manage the purchase of medicines to ensure they are affordable and value for money, and the right of a state to do this should not be eroded in the name of intellectual property rights or investor rights.
2. The TPPA should respect freedom of association and the rights of workers in participating countries to collectively bargain and should ratify and uphold the core international labour conventions. Each party to the agreement should commit to the elimination of forced labour and child labour practices and not to derogate from its employment laws and international conventions for trade or investment advantage. These commitments should be enforceable.
3. The TPPA should not grant foreign investors the right to sue governments for millions of dollars if their investments are harmed by a law or a policy. Governments should have the right to make laws that prioritise citizen rights ahead of investor rights.

To whom it may concern,

REQUEST to confirm the firm policy of Japanese administration through the
Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiation

Japan Dairy Network is a group consists of 105 Groups which includes almost all the Dairy Groups in Japan. We are worried about that TPP would destroy Japanese agriculture, especially dairy related industry.

Covering no less than 21 areas, TPP will strengthen the neoliberal structural reform to widen disparity that will make Japanese society unstable and we are strongly concerned that we will lose fine society, tradition and culture of Japan. We hear that TPP is aimed at eliminating tariffs of all the goods without any exclusion. Once the TPP should be in force, the amount of imported food would rapidly increase and Japanese agriculture will be devastated and related business will be disrupted taking jobs away in the local cities, and will destroy adorable scenery of Japanese countryside.

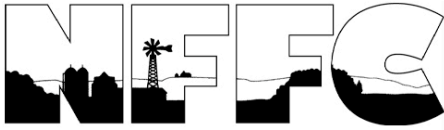
Japanese livestock industries produce one third of Japanese agricultural output and the related industry is extensive. Moreover, dairy farming is strongly related to crop farming. We thus believe that we are playing one of the most important roles for viable agriculture of Japan, and the corruption of dairy industry means that of whole Japanese agriculture.

Therefore, Japan Dairy Network has been petitioning Japanese government to hold back from the TPP negotiation. While more than 240 members of the Japanese national Congress, the Diet, from the Liberal Democratic Party expressed opposition, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on 15th March this year announced Japan's interests to join the TPP negotiation after convincing that Japan would not accept to tariff cut for all the products.

Then both the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries have resolved that

the Government of Japan should, when participating in TPP negotiations, put into practice that Rice, wheat, beef, pork, milk products, sweetening resource products and other sensitive agricultural, forestry and fisheries products should be exempt or taken for re-negotiation so that they can continue to be reproduced. No approval should be given even to gradual elimination of tariffs beyond ten years.

We would strongly encourage you to read attached documents and confirm the firm policy of Japanese administration through the Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiation before you decide your attitude toward Japan's participation in the TPP.



National Family Farm Coalition

110 Maryland Avenue, NE Suite 307 • Washington, DC 20002 • (202) 543-5675 • Fax (202) 543 0978 • nffc@nffc.net • www.nffc.net

Statement of Ben Burkett, NFFC President, Mississippi Association of Cooperatives Director, and Farmer:

As a farmer from Mississippi and the President of the National Family Farm Coalition, I am very apprehensive about the outcomes of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations in Lima, Peru, this month. Our concerns span the impacts on the entire food system but we are focused specifically on the potential of this agreement to decimate our nation's dairy farmers. With just under 50,000 dairy farmers left in the U.S., they deserve to have sensible policies enacted on a domestic level, not to be crushed by unfair trade deals that threaten their ability to recover their costs of production. It makes no sense for our nation's dairy farmers to compete against dairy farmers in New Zealand and Australia, the lowest-cost producers in the world. We are also anxious about the expanded imports of milk substitutes, such as Milk Protein Concentrate (MPC), which could be substituted in many products without being labeled clearly for customers.

The TPP has the potential to expand the rights and protections for investors over those for consumers, farmers and workers. As our nation is debating its next farm bill, we need to make our policy process more open and democratic. Like NAFTA, the only winners from the TPP will be a few multi-national corporations. We need strong enforcement of our nation's anti-trust laws and a move to break up, not consolidate, the world's production of milk and all other foods. This is simply the wrong path to follow when the potential and enthusiasm to reshape and improve our food system is at hand.

Ben Burkett can be reached by email at benburkett@earthlink.net; NFFC's website is www.nffc.net or the office at (202) 543-5675 or by email at nffc@nffc.net

NFU Weighs in on Trade Negotiations

WASHINGTON (May 10, 2013) – National Farmers Union (NFU) President Roger Johnson submitted comments today on a possible Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the European Union and sent a letter to the office of the U.S. Trade Representative in advance of the 17th round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, to be held in Lima, Peru, from May 15 to May 24, 2013.

“NFU takes a broad approach when considering the merits of trade policy,” said Johnson. “Trade has a far-reaching effect on the structure and quality of countries’ economies; therefore, trade agreement negotiations should not simply be limited to regulating trade-specific issues like domestic support levels, export subsidies and market access. Trade agreements must also address differences in labor standards, environmental standards, health standards, the trade-distorting effect of currency manipulation, and cartelization of markets.”

In regard to the TTIP, the comments note the importance of trade balance, fair compensation for farmers and other workers, and protection from dumping and other unfair trade practices that force farmers off their land.

“The TTIP should establish minimum standards for environmental, food and product safety, and consumer information,” said Johnson. “These important considerations should not be limited, and terms of any agreement should not prohibit countries from enacting measures that protect their citizens’ safety.”

Johnson noted lingering concerns with the secrecy in which the TPP negotiation process has been conducted. He also urged caution in TPP talks, specifically as they relate to dairy policies.

“It is not in the interest of family-owned and -operated dairies to open greater access to a country with a consolidated entity controlling the dairy sector,” said Johnson. “U.S. trade negotiators should not force other countries in the TPP to dismantle supply management programs, especially as efforts are currently underway to implement a similar system in the United States. Dairy should not be part of any TPP agreement if these inconsistencies are left unresolved.”

The TTIP comments and the TPP letter are attached.

National Farmers Union has been working since 1902 to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities through advocating grassroots-driven policy positions adopted by its membership.



NEWS RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Melisa Augusto, 202-

www.nfu.org

Dan McEvily, 202-

www.nfu.org

USA Zenchu Statement on the Lima Round of TPP Negotiations

WASHINGTON (May 14, 2013) – In advance of the Lima round of negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Roger Johnson, [National Farmers Union](http://www.nfu.org) Executive Director and Akira Banzai, president of Japan's Zenchu, the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA Zenchu), issued the following statement:

"Organizations representing family farmers in Japan and the United States strongly urge TPP negotiators to fully consider the potentially damaging effects of an unbalanced trade agreement. The TPP raises serious concerns about national sovereignty, as the talks cover important issues for the citizens of both countries, ranging from food safety to health care.

"The United States must be treated differently from other economic sectors in trade negotiations due to the fundamental importance of food security, rural economies, and health care considerations. Both countries have sensitive agricultural products that are at risk of being eliminated or restricted.

"Both countries support affordable and accessible universal health care as a fundamental human right. In this context, the TPP should not undermine or damage any existing health care programs in participating countries.

"Transparency in the negotiating process and study of the effects of the TPP are essential. As long as the TPP negotiations are conducted under the current secrecy, we fear that family farmers will be harmed.

"We urge your consideration of these principles."

For more information, see the full statement.

National Farmers Union has been working since 1902 to protect and enhance the

National Farmers Union has been working since 1902 to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities through advocating grassroots-driven policy positions adopted by its membership.

-30-

National Farmers Union
20 F Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202.554.1600 - Fax: 202.554.1654

email: news@nfudc.org