

STATEMENT
Alejandro Ramírez González
Confederation of Mexican Hog Farmers
(Confederación de Porcicultores Mexicanos)

NAFTA has had severe effects on the agricultural and livestock sectors in Mexico. Far from providing benefits for farmers, we've been trampled on by imports to degrees that threaten the sovereignty of our country. As an example, between 2007 and 2008, pork imports from the US to Mexico increased by approximately 40%. In turn, imported pork now represents approximately 50% of domestic pork consumption in Mexico.

Due to the fact that current agricultural policy does ***not*** promote fair competition, there has been the development of a one-way trade flow in pork products (NORTH TO SOUTH). The elimination of tariffs has forced us to abandon the idea that we can participate in the exportation of our goods out of Mexico within the trade framework, while at the same time, imports into Mexico have benefited from the lack of verification and quality control mechanisms in our country. In other words, trade-related government policies are not mirrored or equal across the border.

We believe that there are possibilities to resolve our conflicts within the NAFTA framework; however, we confront a situation lacking the necessary commitment from our governments to apply these regulations, above all in Mexico. When confronted with eventualities such as Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), stimulus programs such as "Buy American", monopolistic practices and trade policies, we face the reality that the Mexican government has not responded positively with initiatives to implement similar measures in our country.

Finally, in this meeting, we have discovered that livestock producers in all three countries are confronting common problems, for which we can find common solutions. Through cooperation among producers, we can push for similar reactions from our governments and force them to act accordingly.