**NOTE: MOST PUBLICATIONS’ OP-ED WORD COUNT LIMITS ARE 400 TO 600 WORDS. AS YOU PERSONALIZE THE TEMPLATE AND MAKE EDITS, PLEASE CHECK THE RULES OF THE NEWSPAPER YOU PLAN TO SEND IT TO AND ADJUST AS NEEDED TO FIT THE WORD COUNT.**

**Farmer Op-Ed Template – USMCA**

My family is proud to be part of [States]’s long dairy tradition, providing our community with wholesome and nutritious milk and cheese products. [Add details about your family operation and/or what farming means to you. An example: “We’ve been farming on this land for 3 generations.”]

But the survival of dairy farms like mine is dependent in key part on the free-flowing trade of our products to international consumers. That’s why it is so important that Congress secure our trade relationships with Canada and Mexico by quickly ratifying the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Dairy farming is more than just a job, it’s a labor of love. My family wakes early and works long days, milking our [add number/breed] cows twice a day and completing the chores that keep our farm running. And all of this work produces the milk that ends up in hundreds of American dairy products from cheese to ice cream to milk powder.

Dairy farmers are an integral part of [State]’s economy. From employment on the farm to the income we invest in our local businesses, our farms generate economic activity and strengthen our rural communities.

The continued success of my family’s farm requires dependable and growing export markets that expand demand for the milk we produce here in [town].

Our family farms and the businesses who purchase the milk we produce have established themselves as one of the world’s biggest suppliers of high-quality dairy products. And Mexico is by far our largest customer. Last year the U.S. dairy industry exported more than $5 billion in dairy products with about a quarter of that going to Mexico alone. The equivalent of nearly 3 million gallons of milk crossed the border into Mexico every single day.

For farmers, that means that the average dairy cow produces 2.7 pounds of milk daily that goes to the Mexican market. It’s clear that our trusted trade relationship with Mexico is pretty important to the dairy industry.

Thankfully, USMCA will safeguard our market in Mexico for American dairy products and expand our opportunities to sell products to Canada, restoring certainty to our trading relationships with our North American neighbors and bringing increased prosperity for farmers in [State].

All told, the U.S. government estimates that USMCA will provide more than $300 million in new dairy sales to markets around the world. And those new dairy sales abroad will translate to economic benefits here at home.

Dairy farming is a legacy that I would like to see continue for future generations. Congress has an immediate opportunity to help make that happen and deliver some good news to the heartland.

Congress, help secure a brighter future for America’s dairy farms by supporting the swift bipartisan passage of USMCA.