Ongoing Trade Headlines

• USMCA: Seasonal Fix Unaddressed

• Bilateral trade opportunities?
  – U.S.-EU negotiations
  – U.S.-Japan
  – China (multiple phases)
  – FL exports to the UK?

• USDA to the rescue!
  – Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments
USMCA Highlights

- Automotives were the driving (Ha!) force
  - 62.5 to 75% sourced content in U.S. for zero tariffs
- U.S. access to Canadian dairy market
  - Estimated 3% enhanced market access
- Sunset clause: review every 6 years; renegotiated every 16 years
- ITC Report (Apr. 20) – adds $68.2B to economy (0.35%)
Figure 3. Monthly import value of selected fruits and vegetables from Mexico to the United States, 2015-2019 (UF/IFAS Report – June 2019)
Imports continue to rapidly rise

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce
What’s next?

- HR.101/S16 – Defending Domestic Produce Production Act
  - Entire FL delegation co-sponsors
  - Support growing in specialty crop states (GA, MI, NY, etc.)

- U.S. Trade Representative commits help
  - Jan. 9th letter to FL Congressional delegation
  - Field hearings in FL within weeks
Ag Labor Challenges

• Farm Workforce Modernization Act
  • House passes ag labor bill – first time in 34 years
  • FB concerns
    • Wage rate, capped visas, enforcement

• H2A truck hauling issue
  – Judge rules hauling is not “agricultural labor or services”

• Unexplained worker delays in MX
Figure 6. H-2A Program Certified Positions and National AEWR

Certified Positions


AEWR $/Hr

Source: DOL
Figure 9. AEWR Increase from 2011 to 2020

Source: USDA Farm Labor Survey
**Disaster Relief**

**Hurricane Irma (2017)**
- $2.5B in total ag losses
  - $800M in citrus losses
- March 2018: Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (WHIP)
  - $2.4B for FL, TX, CA, PR
  - $340M citrus block grant
- Issues with USDA implementation
  - Legislative interpretation
  - FSA processing

**Hurricane Michael (2018)**
- $1.5B in total ag losses
  - $1.2B in timber losses
- November 2019: WHIP+
  - WHIP with some modifications
  - $3B for 2018/19 disasters
  - Milk Loss Program added
- FDACS and USDA discussing block grant rules
  - $380M timber/irrigation block grant
Quarterly FL Delegation Meeting re: FL Agriculture
Climate Change and Environment

15% of All Farmland Is Used for Conservation & Wildlife Habitat

Total acres U.S. farmers have enrolled in certain USDA conservation programs. Equal to the total land area of California & New York. This does not include millions of acres in voluntary or state-led conservation practices.

+140,000,000 Acres
2020 Census

- Projections show FL gaining 1-2 congressional seats
  - GAINS: NC, TX, MO, CO, AZ, OR
  - LOSSES: CA, NY, OH, MI, PA, IL, WV, MN, RI
- Population rise in FL is a challenge, but also an opportunity.

Changing representation in Congress

The latest population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau suggest that many states may gain or lose U.S. House seats in the upcoming post-2020 reapportionment.

Projected change in U.S. House seats by state

-1 seat  No change  +1  +2  +3

Source: Election Data Services analysis of Census Bureau data

Allan James Vestal / POLITICO
Old Macdonald lost the farm.
M-A-G-A- D'oh!
Florida Agriculture

The challenges of the Florida farmer are many and growing.

Thus, relationships and dialogue with policymakers are important.

THANK YOU!

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