Address Non-Tariff and Trade-Restrictive Regulatory Barriers; Promote Science-Based Trade Rules

- Press for the removal of unjustified Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)-related restrictions on U.S. beef in Korea, Japan, Singapore, and Australia, for instance. The U.S. is recognized as negligible risk for BSE by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

- Singapore and Australia have erected trade-restrictive barriers, that conflict with WOAH standards, on U.S. pork due to unsupported concerns over trichinae and Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome in the U.S. swine herd. Meanwhile, Thailand unjustifiably maintains a zero-tolerance policy for meat imports with residues of ractopamine, an animal feed additive that improves efficiency in pork production.

- Vietnam’s import licensing regimen unduly restricts certain U.S. beef and pork offal products.

- The U.S. has encouraged Taiwan to accept Codex Alimentarius maximum residue limits for U.S. pork muscle cuts and other pork products. In August 2020, Taiwan announced that it would ease restrictions on U.S. beef and pork imports, while setting standards for pork containing ractopamine in accordance with international standards. The ban on U.S. pork from hogs fed ractopamine was officially lifted in January 2021. However, in certain instances, the proposed standards, including for kidneys, differ from Codex limits and the required risk assessment examining ractopamine residue levels in pork has not been made available.

- While Taiwan’s commitment to adopting Codex MRLs for pork and pork products is a positive development that is not yet fully realized, the Taiwanese government concurrently implemented an onerous country-of-origin labeling regulation for imported pork that undermines the additional access granted to pork imports through the establishment of MRLs. This action is particularly discriminatory against U.S. pork, which has been the subject of sustained, widespread, negative media coverage, as these labels are required for all pork including items that are further processed.

- Despite progress, U.S. beef exports to Taiwan continue to face unwarranted obstacles. Although WOAH, in 2015, declared the U.S. as negligible risk for BSE, Taiwan continues to impose BSE-related restrictions on U.S. beef imports; restrictions remain on access for ground beef, beef trimmings, and some offal products. Additionally, Taiwan maintains unfounded restrictions on imported Canadian cattle fed for less than 100 days in the U.S., whereby beef must be from cattle less than 30 months of age. Accordingly, U.S. beef exporters must continue to participate in a USDA-AMS Export Verification Program to send product to...
Taiwan, which limits the commercial potential for U.S. beef exports destined for the Taiwanese market.

- At the end of 2022, multiple U.S. establishments had been suspended from exporting beef to China after ractopamine was detected during import testing. Although China maintains a zero-tolerance policy for ractopamine in beef products, establishment eligibility to export to China should not be revoked after one positive finding (product should be rejected, but establishments must show a pattern of positive findings prior to being suspended, according to the U.S.-China Phase One Agreement). We appreciate the U.S. government’s work to rectify this issue, and encourage that efforts be taken to preserve U.S. beef access to China.

- **Encourage Adoption of Systems-Based Approvals for Facility Registration**
  - Many countries, including markets like Indonesia, Vietnam, and Malaysia, implement a cumbersome plant-by-plant approval process, rather than a systems-wide approach adopted by the U.S., instead requiring companies to register their establishments on an individual basis to be eligible to export. This process disregards USDA’s authority over all federally inspected meat and poultry establishments and adds undue complexity and costs to the export approval process.

- **Improve Market Access Through Tariff Reductions and Quota Reforms**
  - While NAMI continues to encourage the Administration to engage in broad-based tariff reduction, we recognize that FTA negotiations are unlikely. Nevertheless, we urge the Administration to pursue targeted efforts to reduce tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports, including meat and poultry exports.
  - The U.S. faces tariff disadvantages in Indo-Pacific because of reductions and duty eliminations agreed in the CPTPP, the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA, and the EU-Vietnam FTA. For example, although Vietnam temporarily reduced its Most Favored Nation Tariff (MFN) rate on pork from 15 to 10% in July 2022, U.S. pork will still face a tariff disadvantage compared to the EU, Canada, and Russia. U.S. frozen and chilled beef in Vietnam is subject to 14 and 20% duties, whereas competitors, like Australia and New Zealand, receive duty-free access.
  - Thailand’s import duties are trade-prohibitive, with U.S. beef facing a 50% duty and U.S. pork subject to 30-40% tariff rates. Likewise, the Philippines implements some of the world’s highest pork import duties, however, the Government of the Philippines has once again extended lower tariffs to pork imports (15% in-quota and 25% out-of-quota vs. 30% and 40%, respectively). In India, the market is effectively closed to U.S. poultry exports, which incur a duty rate near 100%.
  - We continue to call for the removal of Section 232 retaliatory tariffs on U.S. pork exports to China, which are subject to an additional 25% tariff.
  - These tariff discrepancies dramatically reduce the export potential of U.S. meat and poultry. Even if non-tariff barriers are addressed, access will be severely impeded by excessive tariffs. This not only weakens export value, but also detrimentally impacts American meat and poultry companies and the workers they sustain.

- **Secure Meaningful Market Access Under Existing Trade Agreements (focus on IPEF region)**
The U.S. has existing FTAs with Korea (KORUS) and Australia. Yet Korea, for instance, bars imports of U.S. processed beef products and U.S. beef and beef products derived from cattle imported from Canada for immediate slaughter based on unfounded BSE concerns. Beef and beef products derived from cattle imported from Canada that reside in the U.S. less than 100 days prior to slaughter are also ineligible. Australia, meanwhile, continues to restrict access for chilled/frozen U.S. beef and largely limits imports of U.S. pork to product destined for further processing.

- **Prioritize Regionalization Agreements to Preserve Trade and Business Continuity during Foreign Animal Disease Outbreaks**
  - Global meat and poultry exports have been significantly impacted by the spread of foreign animal diseases (FAD) such as African Swine Fever and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The U.S. should engage in regionalization discussions and pursue agreements with key trading partners, both in the context of current framework negotiations (IPEF, the Americas, Taiwan, etc.) and independent of those conversations. We encourage the promotion and adoption of WOAH regionalization principles consistent with science-based rulemaking, to prevent complete market closures in the event of a FAD outbreak.

- **Support and advance in trade and global sustainability discussions the critical roles innovation, technology, and efficiency play in producing more nutrient-dense, high-quality food using fewer resources.**
  - Trade in animals and animal products not only sustains livelihoods and communities, but also minimizes food waste, while ensuring people around the world have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary preferences and needs. As the pace of climate-related impacts on food production and supplies accelerates, innovative practices and technological advancements embraced and implemented by U.S. animal agriculture, yielding more food from fewer resources, will help feed growing domestic and global populations. This, however, will make the work of reducing barriers that inhibit U.S. animal agriculture producers’ access to dynamic, burgeoning foreign markets even more urgent.