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NARA Praises USDA for Investing in Market Expansion Through MAP and FMD Funding *Renderers Receive Nearly \$1.8M in MAP and FMD Funding to Strengthen Global Markets*

ALEXANDRIA, VA, February 11, 2026 - The North American Renderers Association (NARA) today welcomed the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s announcement of 2026 export market development program allocations, with NARA designated to receive nearly \$1.8 million through the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) program to support U.S. rendered product exports abroad.

The MAP and FMD allocations reflect the Administration’s ongoing commitment to strengthening U.S. agricultural exports and ensuring American producers remain competitive in global markets. NARA praised the leadership of President Donald J. Trump and Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins in prioritizing export growth and market expansion for U.S. agriculture.

“USDA’s continued investment in MAP and FMD funding reflects its recognition of the strategic importance of export promotion and market diversification for U.S. agricultural producers and processors,” said Kent Swisher, NARA President and CEO. “These funds provide essential support that allows our industry to compete and grow in dynamic global markets.”

NARA leverages MAP and FMD resources to build market demand, support foreign regulatory and plant registration efforts, intervene during trade disruptions, and cultivate trusted relationships with overseas trading partners. Maintaining in-country representation — particularly where other programs may not be eligible — often makes the difference between success and stagnation in these markets.

“Our annual MAP and FMD allocations are critically important to our ability to have staff and activities in Greater China — including Hong Kong — and Mexico because those markets are not currently eligible for the \$6.3 million funding, we received under the RAPP program,” said Dana Johnson Downing, NARA Senior Vice President of International Programs. “These trade facilitation efforts are essential for helping members navigate commercial and regulatory issues and having dedicated local representation helps build trust with our trading partners that simply can’t be replicated remotely.”

The MAP and FMD programs — long foundational pillars of USDA’s export market development strategy — support a wide range of activities that expand the reach of U.S. agriculture, increase competitiveness, and help U.S. industries adapt to shifting global demand.

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About the North American Renderers Association

The North American Renderers Association (NARA) represents the interests of the North American rendering industry to regulatory and other governmental agencies, promotes the greater use and beneficial reuse of animal byproducts and UCO, and fosters the opening and expansion of trade between foreign buyers and North American exporters. In addition to its U.S.-based headquarters, the association maintains offices in strategic locations around the world. NARA publishes the bi-monthly trade magazine *Render* and provides research, policy development, and educational resources on rendering and recycling operations. For more information, visit www.nara.org