Why the Export Market is Important for U.S. Dairy

- The U.S. is the world’s largest dairy milk producer, contributing 20 percent of the world’s total milk production.
- Milk is produced in all 50 U.S. states. Dairy products include fluid milk, cheese, butter, ice cream, yogurt, dry milk products, condensed milk, and whey.
- U.S. dairy exports account for 15% of its total annual production.
- In 2018, U.S. dairy exports totaled $5.5 billion – a 2 percent increase from 2017.
- Mexico is the largest export market for U.S. dairy, with a 25 percent market-share, followed by Canada and China with 12 percent and 10 percent market-shares respectively.

U.S. Dairy Exports to the World: 2000-2018
(Billion Dollars)

U.S. Ag Exports by Commodity
(Market-share by value)

Largest Markets for U.S. Dairy
(Market-share by value)

Source: USDA

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