

name of the National Front To Save the Mexican Countryside.

It's time for Mexico's ag producers to wake up, Valdez Armentía stated from the outset. There are measures we can take to solve the great crisis we face. He held up the statement on the crisis prepared by his movement, which he then gave to the candidate. The document identifies the root of the crisis as being the abandonment of the policy of maintaining national food security through parity pricing and government protection which Mexico had maintained for a half century, from 1934–1982. The policy shift that occurred starting in 1983 towards the free trade policies then codified in NAFTA and today's USMCA, has left grain prices to be decided at the whim of international speculative markets, it charges.

With limited time to speak, Valdez summarized the four measures the movement argues must be taken to save Mexico's food and farmers:

1) Urgently revise the agricultural chapter of the USMCA, in order to correct all regulations which harm the farmers, and, at the same time, take up proposals that Mexico diversify its foreign and economic relations by turning towards the BRICS for alternative trade relations and joint investment projects, to get around the control by the cartels that ma-

nipulate prices on the Chicago Board of Trade, and the like.

2) Establish national production goals, and ensure those goals can be met through a universal policy of parity pricing for basic grains, and establish reasonable tariff policies to prevent cheap food imports from harming national producers.

3) Return to a policy of developing water resources, rather than today's doomed effort to manage existing resources. Great infrastructure projects, like [the Northwest Hydraulic Plan \(PLHINO\)](#), and seawater desalination plants to supply coastal cities, must be built.

4) Re-establish all the policies which Mexico employed from 1934 to 1982 to protect and develop the productivity of Mexican agriculture. "We are not proposing a return to the past; we are proposing re-establishing the basic economic principles" which assured social well-being.

Valdez Armentía told the candidate and the mass of farmers listening that he was willing to meet any candidate willing to listen, with the message: "Forget ideologies and dogmas. Let us be really practical. Let us take up again what worked for 50 years, and throw out everything in the last 30 years which has not worked."

Salute to the Farmers and Ranchers of Mexico, Our Comrades in Common Purpose

March 26—*The following message of support and policy, signed by the 22 U.S. farm leaders from 14 states, whose names follow, was read in Spanish translation to farmers meeting at their conference in Los Mochis, Sinaloa, March 15, to discuss how to overcome the extreme crisis they, too, face today.*

We farmers and ranchers in the U.S. salute you in Mexico. We greet your organization, the "National Front To Save the Mexican Countryside," and its deliberations at your March 15 conference. We respect and value your guts and courage in our common fight to save independent family farming, and independent national economies everywhere.

Our common enemy is the monopolistic complex of global banks, and transnational corporations. They impose a below-cost-of-production trade policy. They prevent a parity-oriented price policy, which would

maintain the farm producer sector in each of our countries, and in nations around the world. They are stealing the "family farm" culture out of agri-culture.

The same agro-financial complex has prevented infrastructure construction in North America, to serve our common interest in necessary improvements, especially water systems—dams, canals, irrigation, desalination, flood control. They block high-tech power, transportation, health care and thousands of other projects.

Now is the time to stop this destruction. Re-control trade. Build infrastructure and set the agenda for a new economic system worldwide serving productive forces—from farmer producers to manufacturing, not globalist, speculator predators.

Our fellow ranchers and farmers are on the streets in Europe, and in India. There were hundreds of farm

demonstrations in the Americas in 2023. We fight here in the U.S., and we encourage and support our brother farmers, ranchers, and all food producers in Mexico.

In this spirit, we send our support to your conference, “Let’s Recover a Sovereign Policy in Food Production.” We stand with you and look forward to working together to get the job done.

Robert “Bob” Baker, Leesburg, Virginia; Former Grain and Livestock Producer; Director of Schiller Institute Agricultural Commission

Jon Baker, Harper, Iowa; Cattle and Grain Farmer; Agricultural Bank Vice President and Loan Officer; Vice President of the Iowa Stockgrowers Association

James Benham, Versailles, Indiana; Former State President of the Indiana Farmers Union; National Board Member of the National Farmers Union

Bill Bullard, Billings, Montana; Chief Executive Officer, R-CALF USA (Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America)

Mike Callicrate, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Cattleman; President and Founder, Ranch Foods Direct

Angel Cushing, Allen, Kansas; Goat Farmer; Independent Farm Activist against the Green New Deal / 30×30 land grab

Frank Endres, Corning, California; Wheat and Cattle Rancher; National Board Member of National Farmers Organization (NFO) and of R-CALF USA

Taylor H. Haynes, M.D., Laramie, Wyoming; Rancher; President, and member of the Board of Directors, Organization for Competitive Markets

Angela Huffman, Wharton, Ohio; Sheep Farmer; President of Farm Action

Wilbur Kehrli, Manchester, Iowa; Cattle, Pigs and Grain Farmer; Board of Directors of American Blue Cattle Association, retired

Bill Kluck, Mud Butte, South Dakota; Sheep and Cattle Rancher; Chairman of Sheep Committee, R-CALF USA; on Board of Directors of South Dakota Stockgrowers Association

Vaughn Meyer, Reva, South Dakota; Cattle Rancher; Former President of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association; Former President of the Organization for Competitive Markets

James Moore, Alaska; Fisherman, Past Chairman of the Alaska Trollers Association

Eric Nelson, Merville, Iowa; Farm/Feeder and Rancher; Vice President R-CALF USA, and Director, Region VII (Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin)

Andrew Olson, Windom, Minnesota; Grain Producer; Farm Leader and Chairman of the Minnesota Schiller Institute Agricultural Commission

Mike Schultz, Brewster, Kansas; Rancher and Farmer; Vice-President of Organization for Competitive Markets

Randy Sowers, Middletown, Maryland; Dairy Farmer, independent creamery owner

Matthew Steele, Manhattan, Kansas; Executive Director of the Kansas Cattlemen’s Association

Herman Steffen, Detour, Maryland; Beef Cattle and Grain Farmer; Farm Leader

Mike Weaver, Franklin, West Virginia; Board of Directors, and former President of Contract Poultry Growers Association of the Virginias

Charles White, Fowlerville, Michigan; Dairy and Grain Farmer

Ron Wiczorek, Mitchell, South Dakota; Rancher and Farm Leader; Former Candidate for U.S. Congress; Chairman of the South Dakota Schiller Institute Agricultural Commission