

**White House Daily Briefing  
October 19, 2018**

**Three Articles to Read**

**What Trump Knows That Obama Didn't**

We now know why President Obama had to struggle so hard to spur the economy and allow it to grow more than 2 percent a year. And that was the high-water mark. In the last quarter of his presidency, growth had slipped to 1.5 percent. Today it's obvious what Obama's problem was. He had the wrong policies, lots of them. [https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/18/us-weekly-jobless-claims-total-210000-vs-212000-expected.html?\\_source=newsletter%7Cbreakingnews](https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/18/us-weekly-jobless-claims-total-210000-vs-212000-expected.html?_source=newsletter%7Cbreakingnews)

**How Trump's 'nickel plan' could boost the economy**

President Trump's initiative to cut spending by 5 percent across his Cabinet's departments would likely provide a solid boost to the economy and Wall Street, according to Moody's Managing Director John Lonski. <https://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/how-trumps-nickel-plan-could-boost-the-economy>

**US, Mexico agree on plan to handle migrant caravan from Central America**

U.S. and Mexican officials have agreed on a plan to handle the approaching migrant caravan making their way up from Central America, a senior administration official told Fox News on Thursday. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/us-mexico-agree-on-plan-to-handle-migrant-caravan-from-central-america>

**Things to Know**

**SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE SONNY PERDUE: "USMCA A TRADE DEAL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"**

*"Under USMCA, we have created new rules to help our farmers, ranchers and workers better face the challenges of the 21st century economy, which will secure greater access to the Mexican and Canadian markets and maintain and improve the highly productive integrated agricultural relationships we have as nations."*

**USMCA a trade deal for the 21st century**

By Secretary Sonny Perdue  
The Spokesman-Review [Spokane, Washington]  
October 17, 2018

With the announcement of a new trade pact among the United States, Mexico and Canada, we welcomed the tremendous news that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will be, if approved by Congress, replaced by a much stronger agreement. Known as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the package will be important for American workers and our economy as a whole, including the agricultural sector, which counts Mexico and Canada in our top three trading partners.

Under USMCA, we have created new rules to help our farmers, ranchers and workers better face the challenges of the 21st century economy, which will secure greater access to the Mexican and Canadian markets and maintain and improve the highly productive integrated agricultural relationships we have as nations.

The agreement with Mexico came first, near the end of August, and includes a number of provisions sought by the United States. Importantly, 21st century innovations in agricultural biotechnology are addressed for the first time, including cutting-edge processes like gene editing. These innovations serve as a template for agreements in the future. And we mutually pledge to work together to reduce trade-distorting policies, increase transparency and ensure nondiscriminatory treatment in grading of agricultural products.

Notably, as one of the president's top goals, the new agreement will eliminate Canada's unfair "Class 6" and "Class 7" milk pricing schemes, in which Canada has used low-priced products to undercut United States dairy sales in Canada and other international markets. The deal will also crack open additional access to United States dairy into Canada, including products like fluid milk, cream, butter, skim milk and cheese, and will also preserve and expand critical access for United States poultry and egg producers. America's wheat farmers also get a big win. A reform of Canada's discriminatory wheat grading process will help United States wheat growers along the border become more competitive. These are all significant victories for American agriculture.

The newly minted USMCA goes in the win column for President Trump and his negotiating team, led by our United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Robert Lighthizer. Our economy, and American agriculture, will be better off for it.

[Read the full op-ed here](#)