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*A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD*

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Light Brown Apple Moth Quarantine Boundary Updated

- Effective January 18, the California Department of Food and Agriculture Plant Health and Pest Prevention Service has [expanded](#) (maps #365 and #382) the Light Brown Apple Moth (*Epiphyas postvittana* – LBAM) quarantine boundary for San Luis Obispo – Arroyo Grande.
- LBAM is an invasive pest that attacks over 250 agricultural crops including cherry trees. More information about LBAM regulation and quarantine boundaries is available [here](#).

Amendments to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances of the National Organic Program

- Based on previous public input and recommendations from the National Organic Standards Board, on January 17, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service published a [proposed rule](#) in the *Federal Register* to amend the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List).
- In general, synthetic substances are prohibited for crop and livestock production unless specifically allowed and non-synthetic substances are allowed for crop and livestock production unless specifically prohibited. The National List identifies those synthetic substances that may be used and the natural substances that may not be used in organic crop and livestock production.
- The proposed rule would add 16 substances to the list of those allowed in organic production and handling, and change 17 substances already on the National List to reflect current farming or processing practices.
- Comments must be received by March 19, 2018.

Trans-Pacific Partnership Members Reach Agreement on Trade Deal

- The 11 Trans-Pacific Partnership parties reached a deal on January 23 for a revised agreement. The new pact, The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), will be signed in Chile on March 8, 2018.
- The 11 CPTPP nations met in Tokyo this week to iron out the remaining issues. Efforts to finalize the agreement were complicated due to separate but conflicting interests from Canada and Vietnam; however, Canada, which sought protection of its cultural industries, and Vietnam, which was worried about labor protection rules, have agreed to exchange separate side letters with other members on those respective topics at the time of signing.

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Trans-Pacific Partnership Members Reach Agreement on Trade Deal

- The final agreement leaves a total of 22 negotiated provisions on a temporary freeze. The market access section, which includes tariffs on food and manufactured products, has remained unchanged with tariffs on 95 percent of trade in goods to be removed in the long run.
- After the agreement is signed, it will need to be ratified by at least six member countries before it can take effect. The CPTPP will cover an estimated 14 percent of the global GDP, and includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Sixth Round of North American Free Trade Agreement Negotiations Expanded

- The North American free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) negotiations began two days earlier than first announced. The official dates for the sixth round were January 23-28, but negotiating sessions began on January 21 and will extend to January 29.
- In line with previous negotiating rounds, the schedule shows some of the more controversial subjects are slated for extensive negotiating time. Auto rules of origin will be discussed for three days, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures will be discussed for four days – January 23-26.
- While negotiations are underway in Montreal, the Business Roundtable has released a [study](#) on the effects of a NAFTA withdrawal. The study found that withdrawing from NAFTA could lead to a net loss of 1.8 million U.S. jobs within the first year, reduce exports to Canada and Mexico by over 17 percent each, and lower the purchasing power of the average U.S. household due to higher prices and lower wages caused by an increase in tariffs.

Japan Amending Food Sanitation Act

- On January 17, Japan [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of amendments to the Food Sanitation Act. The key amendments are as follows:
 - Strengthening measures by national and local governments for interregional food poisoning cases
 - Requirement of food hygiene control based on HACCP principles
 - Establishment of an adverse event reporting system for foods containing the designated substances.
 - Improvement of sanitary regulations for utensils, containers and packaging for food and food additives considering international consistency (*BCI Monitor* 1-16-18)
 - Revision of licensing system and establishment of notification system for food businesses
 - Establishment of a reporting system for food recalls
 - Legalizing administration related to food export and ensuring the safety of imported foods
- The final date for comments is March 18, 2018. The proposed date of adoption is April to July 2018. When adopted, the amendment will be published in the official Japanese Government Gazette.

European Parliament to Create Special Committee to Assess Pesticide Approvals

- The European Parliament is working to set up a special committee to review the European Union's authorization procedure for pesticides, according to a January 18 [press release](#).
- The initiative to create a special committee is a response to concerns raised about the risk posed by the herbicide glyphosate. The authorization for glyphosate was renewed by EU member states for five years in November 2017 (*BCI Monitor* 10-24-17).
- The special committee is to assess the authorization procedure for pesticides in the EU, the potential failures in how substances are scientifically evaluated and approved, possible conflicts of interest in the approval procedure, the role of EU agencies in the procedure, as well as the role of the European Commission in renewing the glyphosate license.
- The vote on the establishment of the special committee will take place during the February 5-8 plenary session.