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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

U.S.-China Talks Extended

- With less than one week left of the 90-day negotiating window, President Trump announced that he will delay the U.S. tariff increase on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports set for March 2, 2019.
- U.S. and Chinese officials made progress in last week's round of negotiations and extended talks through the weekend. According to media sources, there was progress in drafting language for six memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on proposed Chinese reforms and a rough outline for an agreement on structural issues; however, negotiators are struggling to agree on specific language within those MoUs to address the U.S.'s demands for Chinese structural reforms.
- Additionally, as part of the current negotiations, the two sides reached an agreement on currency manipulation and China agreed to buy up to \$1.2 trillion in goods from the U.S., including an additional 10 million metric tons of U.S. soybeans.
- President Trump also noted that a deal could not be completed until he meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The U.S. and China are currently working to set up late-March meeting between the two leaders.

Impact Report on USMCA Delayed

- Due to a lapse in government funding, the International Trade Commission (ITC) has changed the date for transmittal of its report on the likely impact of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) on the U.S. economy, on selected industry sectors, and on U.S. consumer interests.
- The ITC will transmit its report to the President and Congress no later than 140 days, rather than 105 days, after the President entered into the agreement, thus shifting the deadline to April 18, 2019.
- More information is available at the following *Federal Register* [notice](#).

European Parliament Trade Committee Endorses EU-U.S. Negotiation Mandates

- The European Parliament Trade Committee on February 19, 2019 endorsed the mandate to start EU-U.S. trade talks and set conditions on the conclusion of a deal.

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European Parliament Trade Committee Endorses EU-U.S. Negotiation Mandates

- A trade agreement between the EU and the U.S. can be completed based on the current [draft negotiating mandates](#) if the following conditions are met:
 - The U.S. lifts tariffs on steel and aluminum
 - A comprehensive consultation process with civil society and a sustainability impact assessment are carried out;
 - Auto and auto tariffs are included in the talks; and agriculture is excluded from the talks
 - There is more clarity on how rules of origin (which lock in how much of the value of a product must be created locally for trade preferences) are handled during the talks.
 - Talks will be suspended if the U.S. levies more tariffs.
- The European Parliament will have a full vote on its stance on the mandates in March 2019.

European Parliament Approves EU-Singapore Agreements

- On February 13, the trade and investment agreements between the European Union and Singapore received approval from the European Parliament.
- The EU and Singapore signed the EU-Singapore Trade Agreement, the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement, and the Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation on October 19, 2018 (*BCI Monitor* 10-23-18).
- Under the trade agreement, Singapore will remove all remaining tariffs on EU products and will commit to keep unchanged the current duty-free access for all other EU products.
- The trade and investment agreements can enter into force once Singapore completes its domestic procedures and both sides complete the final formalities. More information regarding the EU-Singapore trade and investment agreements is available [here](#).

Upcoming Codex Alimentarius Commission Meetings

- The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring the following public meetings:
 - [Meeting of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues](#) on March 7, 2019;
 - [Meeting of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food](#) on April 1, 2019; and
 - [Meeting of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling](#) on May 6, 2019.
- The public meetings are to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the upcoming Codex Committee sessions.
- The 51st Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) will take place in Macau from April 8-13, 2019. Issues to be discussed at the public meeting include proposed MRLs for pesticides in food and feed as well as a revision of the classification of food and feed.
- The 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) will take place in Indonesia from April 29 to May 3, 2019. Issues to be discussed at the public meeting include prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods and general guidance on data analysis for maximum level development.
- 40th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis (CCMAS) will take place in Hungary from May 27-31, 2019. Issues to be discussed at the public meeting include endorsement of methods of analysis provisions and sampling plans in Codex standards, update of the recommended methods of sampling, and a revision of the general guidelines on sampling.
- For more information on each meeting, please see the respective *Federal Register* notice.

Brazil Health Agency to Consider Glyphosate

- The Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency's (Anvisa) risk analysis team has determined that the herbicide glyphosate is non-carcinogenic but is expected to recommend a number of provisions to be adopted for its use.
- The risk analysis team will present its findings to Anvisa's directors, who will then vote on whether to initiate a public consultation on the findings prior to final approval.
- Brazil bans all agrochemicals proven to be carcinogens. If Anvisa confirms that glyphosate is not a carcinogen, its sale and use will be allowed to continue in Brazil.