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## A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

### European Union Adopts Criteria for Identifying Endocrine Disruptors

- On April 19, the European Union [adopted](#) scientific criteria to identify endocrine disruptors in the context of plant protection products (PPPs) legislation.
- The European Union is the first to have strict legally binding criteria to identify endocrine disruptors.
- These criteria will become applicable on November 10, 2018. The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) are finalizing a guidance document on the implementation of the criteria for both biocides and pesticides. The Guidance document will be available in June 2018.

### Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Adopts New Measures Against the Spread of Plant Pests

- This week the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) adopted new measures for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Those measures include:
  - A standard on the use of various temperature treatments against agricultural pests.
  - An update to the ISPM-15 standards for wood packing materials to include the use of sulphuryl fluoride and new generation heating technologies.
  - An expanded standard on the use of heat vapor to kill Oriental Fruit Flies (OFF)
  - Revisions to standards targeting fruit flies to improve countries' compliance and effectiveness.
- The IPPC is a multilateral treaty that aims to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests. The treaty is overseen by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

### European Union-Japan Trade Agreement Text Published

- The European Commission recently published the [complete text](#) of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiated by the European Union (EU) and Japan. The majority of trade in goods will become duty-free upon entry into force of the agreement.
- The EU tariff on sweet cherries (HS 0809.29) from Japan will be eliminated immediately upon entry into force of the agreement. Japan's 8.5 percent tariff on sweet cherries will be reduced by 50 percent upon entry into force, then fully eliminated in five equal, annual stages, becoming duty-free from April 1 of year six following entry into force.
- Together, the EU and Japan account for approximately one quarter of global gross domestic product (GDP). In 2017, trade in goods between the two sides reached nearly \$158 billion. *(Continued on next page)*

- The EU-Japan EPA must be reviewed and approved by the EU member states and the European Parliament before it can enter into force.

#### House Farm Bill Passes Committee

- On April 19, the 2018 Farm Bill was cleared by the House Agriculture Committee along party lines. Democrat opposition to the bill was centered around the proposal to overhaul the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), particularly the stricter work requirements for recipients.
- According to Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scoring, the Farm bill would make around \$1.5 billion in cuts between 2019 and 2028 across conservation, rural energy development and crop insurance to offset additional spending. The report corroborates the statements of the House Agriculture Committee that the bill is essentially budget neutral.
- House Agriculture Committee Chair Mike Conaway told reporters he hopes to bring the bill to the House floor in May. To pass the House, 218 votes are needed. If the Farm Bill does not have enough support, lawmakers will likely be forced to extend the current legislation, which expires September 30, 2018. More information on the Farm Bill is available [here](#).

#### Mexico and European Union Reach Agreement in Principle on Updated FTA

- On April 21, 2018 the EU and Mexico said they have reached an agreement in principle to modernize their existing free trade deal modelled on the recent deal between the EU and Canada.
- The deal improves access to the Mexican market for EU agricultural products, contributing to Mexico's effort to reduce its reliance on the United States.
- Negotiators on both sides hope to produce a final text by the end of the year.

#### India Publishes Draft Labeling and Display Regulations

- On April 11, 2018 India notified the WTO of [draft](#) revisions to its food labeling and display regulations. The following are the most substantial changes.
  - The Nutritional Information labeling requirement has been revised to incorporate front-of-pack (FOP) labeling.
  - Unless a nutrition or health claim is made on the label, the following products do not require nutritional information labeling: Single ingredient products like sugar, jaggery, salt, spices, and water; non-nutritive products like coffee, tea, and condiments; packaged fresh produce; fresh seafood, eggs, and meat.
  - An 'Expiry' date is not required for fresh produce.
  - Specific Mandatory Declarations must be prominently displayed on the label of all packaged food containing ingredient and/or additives listed in [schedule IV](#) of the Regulation (beginning on page 34). Products and ingredients with Mandatory Declarations include fresh fruit coated with wax artificial, sweeteners, and many others.
- The draft, submitted to the WTO, is open to public comment until June 10, 2018

#### European Commission Proposal on Transparency in the Food Chain

- The European Commission has published a proposal on transparency and sustainability of the European Union (EU) risk assessment model in the food chain. The proposal is in response to the [European Citizen's Initiative on glyphosate](#) and the public consultation that followed (BCI Monitor 2-23-18).
- The proposal, which also draws on the EU General Food Law and the Commission's Fitness Check, aims to give citizens greater access to information submitted to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for approvals concerning the agri-food chain. Additionally, the proposal will provide the possibility for additional studies to be requested by the European Commission and will involve Member States' scientists more closely in approval procedures.
- The legislative proposal will now be submitted to the European Parliament and the EU Member States for adoption. The European Commission aims for this proposal to be adopted by mid-2019. More information is available at the following European Commission [press release](#).