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### A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

### GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

#### Portugal and Chile to Establish Partnership for Enhancing Cherry Production

- Last week, a Chilean delegation visited Portugal's leading cherry growing region of Fundão. The objectives of joint work between the two regions include improving cherry quality, exchanging production knowledge, and establishing a strategy for Portuguese cherry exports to gain entry into the Chinese market.
- Fundão is the main growing area for cherries in Portugal, but on a global scale, it is a small producer with much of the cherry crop destined for the domestic market. Fundão has approximately 2,000 hectares of cherry trees.
- Establishing an alliance between producers and researchers from Portuguese and Chilean universities is seen as a way to improve systems of export and production in both countries.
- Further cooperation between the two cherry industries is planned. A Portuguese delegation will soon travel to Chile to visit cherry production sites there.

#### China Building a Platform to Facilitate Food Imports

- The China Chamber of Commerce of Import and Export Foodstuffs, Native Produce, and Animal By-Products (CFNA) is building a Business-to-Business (B2B) platform called the "Public Service Platform for Imported Food." The platform intends to optimize the supply chain for food imports.
- The B2B platform will facilitate the importation of food products from foreign countries by offering free information and consultation services for international manufacturers and exporters, as well as for Chinese importers and distributors. The free information services include providing real-time communication and translation between Chinese buyers and foreign suppliers, a match making service between Chinese buyers and foreign suppliers with a recommendation mechanism, and an authenticity control mechanism for company profiles and product information.
- The platform has not launched yet, but more information is available at the following U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) [GAIN report](#).

### Philippines Publishes Standard Code of Practice for Fruit and Vegetable Farmers

- On May 16, the Philippine Department of Agriculture [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of a recently published “Philippine National Standard - Code of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Fruits and Vegetables Farming.”
- The code covers general hygienic practices for the prevention and minimization of food safety hazards, adverse environmental impacts, worker health threats, and poor product quality in the production and handling of fresh fruits and vegetables. The practices in this [Code of GAP](#) are aimed towards promoting consumer protection, and enhancing the competitiveness for Philippine agricultural products internationally.

### Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue Orders Creation of Trade Undersecretary Position

- On May 11, Secretary Perdue announced the establishment of an undersecretary position for trade and foreign agricultural affairs at the Agriculture Department, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [press release](#).
- The creation of this position serves as recognition of the increasing importance of international trade to American agriculture, and the American economy as a whole. The undersecretary will manage and coordinate agricultural trade issues across multiple agencies within the USDA. They will chair an inter-agency committee that will have representatives from the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS).
- A USDA [report](#) details the reorganization of the department, and argues that these changes will boost exports, which in turn will allow the agency to better tackle trade barriers. The proposed reorganization is intended to enhance the Department’s ability to quickly respond to sanitary and phytosanitary issues as well as other nontariff trade barriers when they arise, and to open new markets to give U.S. farmers a more even playing field in international markets.
- [Public comment](#) on the reorganization can be submitted until June 12.

### Robert Lighthizer Confirmed as United States Trade Representative

- After over four months of delays, Robert Lighthizer was confirmed by the senate as U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) on Thursday, May 11.
- In March, the Trump administration prepared its notification to Congress stating it intends to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a formality required before a congressionally mandated 90-day consultation period can begin. The notification has yet to be sent to Congress because having a fully staffed and functional Office of the USTR was viewed as an important precursor.
- The administration has cited NAFTA renegotiations as a top administration trade priority and is eager to begin talks. Now that Lighthizer, who will act as the lead negotiation, has been confirmed, a notification to begin renegotiating the agreement is expected soon.