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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD****SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:****U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces Support for Farmers Impacted by Trade Retaliation and Disruption**

- On May 23, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it has been authorized to provide up to \$16 billion in aid to producers impacted by retaliatory tariffs.
- \$14.5 billion will be allocated for direct payments to producers through the Market Facilitation Program (MFP).
  - Sweet cherry producers will receive a payment through this program based on acres of production in 2019.
- Payments will be made in up to three tranches. The first tranche will begin in late July or early August. The second and third tranches will be evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate and be made in November and January if conditions warrant.
- The remaining money will be funneled into the Food Purchase and Distribution Program (FPDP) to purchase surplus commodities impacted by trade retaliation and the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP) to assist in the development of new export markets.

**GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:****Theresa May Announces Her Resignation as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom**

- On May 24, Theresa May announced her resignation as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK). May will stand aside as leader of the Conservative party on June 7, though she will stay in her role as Prime Minister until a successor is chosen.
- This move comes amid increasing pressure from within her Conservative party for her to step down amid a Brexit process that has produced three failed votes on a deal to separate from the European Union.
- As for Brexit, the European Union (EU) has signaled that it would not reopen negotiations for a new withdrawal agreement with the next Prime Minister. The EU has made clear that the options for Britain remain the negotiated deal for withdrawal, a no-deal Brexit, or no Brexit at all.
- May's bill for withdrawal will face a fourth parliamentary vote on June 7.



### US and Japan to 'Accelerate' Trade Talks

- While in Japan as guests of the new Japanese Emperor Naruhito, President Trump and U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi to discuss the prospective U.S.-Japan Trade deal.
- In a press conference over the weekend, President Trump and Prime Minister Abe signaled that the U.S. and Japan would accelerate the pace of trade negotiations with the hope of reaching a deal before the U.S.-imposed six-month deadline for auto tariffs.
- President Trump made clear, however, that the bulk of negotiations would not take place until after elections for Japan's House of Councillors in July.
- President Trump will return to Japan for the G20 summit in late June.

### Canada Moves Toward Ratification of USMCA

- On Monday, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland put forward a ways and means motion on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), taking the first step towards Canadian ratification of the agreement.
- The Canadian Parliament must approve the motion before it can formally consider the trade agreement.
- There is concern that if Canada does not ratify the USMCA before its Parliament leaves for summer break on June 21 the deal will not be taken up until after Canada's federal elections in October.
- Vice President Mike Pence is expected to meet with Prime Minister Trudeau in Canada on Thursday to discuss each country's ratification efforts.

### Korea Introduces Amendment to Imported Food Regulations

- On May 27, Korea [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of an [amendment](#) (in Korean) of Enforcement Rule of the Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control.
- The amendment introduces a planned importation and fast customs clearance system. This will allow for the rapid issuance of a certain certification documents at the border for imported foods that have been continuously imported by an importer with no record of non-compliance.
- Comments on the amendment are due July 26, 2019

### Light Brown Apple Moth Boundary Change

- The Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM - *Epiphyas postvittana*) quarantine boundaries have changed, effective May 21. The regulated area boundary in Marin County has been expanded and can be found in grids [176](#) and [187](#).
- For more information on LBAM, as well as the Southern California, Northern California, and full state quarantine maps, please see the California Department of Food and Agriculture [website](#).