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A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Mediterranean Fruit Fly Quarantine Removal

- On June 2, the Department of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services has removed the Los Angeles County Mediterranean Fruit Fly quarantine. The quarantine was removed because three Mediterranean fruit fly life cycles have concluded without detection.
- The quarantine zone entered into effect on November 29, 2016 and was subsequently expanded on December 2 as a result of multiple trapped flies in the area (*BCI Monitor* 12-6-16). Medfly is known to attack over 250 types of fruits and vegetables, including cherries.

China's New Documentation Requirement Set for October 1

- China's Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) has published a [draft measure](#) on a new certification requirement for imported food products.
- This draft measure would require that all food products imported into China be accompanied with an official certificate affirming that the food is "fit for human consumption," and produced under the supervision of the "competent authority or the specified institutions of the exporting country."
- This certificate document would need to be issued by a government authority, or government-authorized institution, and include the following information in English or Chinese: 1) Food producer (name, address, etc.); 2) Product specifications (brand name, product specifications, packaging, etc.); 3) Transportation details (importer, exporter, points of departure and destination, transportation means, container and seal number, etc.); 4) A statement that the food was produced under the supervision of the competent authority, and is fit for human consumption.
- The proposal states that the measure will come into force on October 1, 2017, though a transition period may be granted upon application by an exporting country with consent from AQSIQ.
- USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is seeking [comments](#) from industry by Monday, June 26.

USTR Extends Public Comment Period for North American Free Trade Agreement Renegotiations

- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has extended the public comment period for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) negotiating objectives.
- The original comment period closed on June 12; however, comments will now be accepted until midnight June 14.

Update on North American Free Trade Agreement Renegotiations

- Last week, Canadian premiers met with U.S. lawmakers and agencies to discuss an expedited path for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). All were in agreement in their desire to expedite the process, and in avoiding starting renegotiations with the more controversial issues - dairy and lumber.
- Governors and premiers from Mexico, Canada, and the United States will meet on July 14 for a summit in Rhode Island to discuss renegotiation priorities of NAFTA. According to media sources, the meeting will be critical for discussing the role that local and state governments will have in the renegotiation. Initial negotiations with Canada and Mexico could begin as early as August 16.

Philippines Publishes Guidelines on the Importation of Plants, Planting Materials, and Plant Products

- The Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) and Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) on May 30 of a circular aiming to rationalize the requirements and procedures for the importation of plants, planting materials, and plant products.
- The [guidelines](#) cover all importations of plants, planting materials, and plant products for commercial purposes into the Philippines. The BPI adopted a categorization of commodities of plant origin that includes four levels based on the risk of a commodity being infested with quarantine pests. Commodities which have been processed to the point where they are not capable of being infested with quarantine pests (Category 1), do not require the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC), instead they require a Processed Product Certificate. However, a SPSIC is required for commodities in all other categories.
- The guidelines also detail the registration procedures and requirements for importers, procedures for the issuance of the SPSIC, the existing inspection procedures, as well as the procedures in the case of seizure or refusal of entry.

Netherlands Ratifies the Association Agreement Between the European Union and Ukraine

- The Dutch Senate ratified the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement on May 30, 2017. More than a year prior, in April 2016, voters in the Netherlands rejected the association agreement, stalling its formal ratification (*BCI Monitor* 4-12-16).
- The EU-Ukraine Association Agreement has already been ratified by the EU's 27 other member states and has been provisionally in force for approximately three years. The EU and Ukraine signed the Association Agreement in 2014 stipulating that it will enter into force once all parties to the Agreement have ratified it.
- With the Dutch Senate's ratification, the Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area component, is one step closer to being fully ratified. The EU side still needs to finalize procedures for the conclusion of the Agreement, and deposit its instruments of ratification. According to Jean-Claude Juncker, the President of the European Commission, there is great desire to have this process finalized quickly and in time for the EU-Ukraine Summit on July 12-13, 2017.

United Kingdom Holds Snap Election

- On Thursday, June 8, the United Kingdom voted in a snap election called by current Prime Minister Theresa May three years ahead of schedule. PM May hoped to consolidate her parliamentary majority ahead of the formal negotiations to leave the European Union which are scheduled to start June 19.
- The general election resulted in a hung Parliament, with May's Conservative Party failing to reach a majority in the Parliament winning only 318 of the 326 needed to have a formal majority in the House of Commons. May plans to continue as party leader and prime minister by forming a minority government despite calls for her to step down.
- The election has weakened May's stance in the negotiations with the European Union. The UK faces a hard deadline of March 2019 to complete negotiations, and in contrast to the European Union, which has published detailed negotiating guidelines agreed upon by all the member states, the UK has made little substantial progress in its preparation for the talks.