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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Solano County Mediterranean Fruit Fly Quarantine Removed

- On August 13, USDA APHIS [announced](#) the removal of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly – *Ceratitis capitata*) Quarantine Area in the Fairfield area of Solano County.
- The quarantine area removal is effective from July 30, 2018.
- USDA APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) established the Medfly quarantine in a regulated area of Fairfield, California on September 23, 2017 after one adult female and four adult male Medflies were detected.
- The Medfly Quarantine Area in Half Moon Bay is the only remaining Medfly quarantine in California. More information regarding Medfly is available at the CDFA [website](#).

Update on Turkish Stone Fruit Sector

- Turkish sweet cherry production is estimated to increase to 440,000 metric tons (MT) in MY 2018/19, according to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture GAIN [report](#).
- According to official Turkish data, the total estimated number of all cherry trees was 34.5 million in 2017. The total number of bearing trees for sweet cherries increased from six million in 2005 to 21.5 million in 2016. There are more than 100 varieties of sweet cherries produced in Turkey.
- The European Union, Russia, and Iraq are the top export markets for Turkish cherries. However, China could soon become an important market for Turkish growers. China added Turkish cherries to the list of approved fruits for import in July 2017 (*BCI Monitor* 7-18-17), and according to media sources, the first order of 4 tons of cherries is on its way to China.
- With U.S. cherries subject to high retaliatory tariffs in the Chinese market, and the Chilean cherry season having little to no overlap with the Turkish cherry season, the remaining challenge to large-scale Turkish cherry exports to the Chinese market is the maximum cold storage period of 16 days that China stipulated in its Plant Health Protocol.

Update on NAFTA

- Secretary of the Economy Ildefonso Guajardo is in Washington, DC again to continue North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) talks. Negotiators from Mexico and the U.S. have been working through the remaining bilateral issues between the two nations consistently over the past month.

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Update on NAFTA

- According to media sources, the U.S. has withdrawn its proposal for a seasonality provision in NAFTA. The seasonality provision would have allowed for seasonal curbs on agricultural exports to the United States and for seasonal produce growers to seek antidumping and countervailing duties. The provision would have benefited a small group of agricultural producers in the U.S. but would have opened up many others to retaliation from Mexico.
- With NAFTA talks picking up steam, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has recently [published](#) an outline on how it will assess the updated agreement. Note that an updated NAFTA, under the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), will require congressional approval.

United States and China to Resume Talks

- A Chinese vice minister is slated to travel to the United States at the invitation of the Treasury Department on August 22-23.
- Talks between the U.S. and China have been stalled for two months, during which time both nations have imposed tariffs on billions of dollars of imports. While involving low-level officials on both sides, the meeting could lead to future higher-level trade talks.
- The talks could serve as preparation and pave the way for more productive meetings between President Trump and President Xi Jinping. Trump and Xi are expected to meet in mid-November at the leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, which involves 21 nations, as well as at the Group of 20 leaders' summit in Buenos Aires in late November.
- As the talks occur, the U.S. Trade Representative will be holding a 6-day public hearing on the Trump Administration's plans for imposing tariffs on an additional \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports.

Changes to Chinese Competent Authority Issuing Certificates

- From August 21, 2018, a new Chinese government authority will issue official government certification.
- The entry-exit inspection and quarantine duties of the People's Republic of China are currently managed by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ). From August 21, 2018, these duties will be integrated into the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China ([GACC](#)). As a result, the GACC will start to use new certificates and new stamps.
- Inspection and quarantine certificates and stamps with the China Inspection and Quarantine (CIQ) logo and current security features issued prior to August 21, 2018 will remain valid. During the coming weeks, certificates in both the old and the new format may be presented. The scope of the change extends to all government certificates as required by the import conditions, including health, veterinary, fumigation and phytosanitary certificates. The security features associated with Chinese government certificates remain unchanged.
- Additionally, beginning August 1, 2018, GACC began accepting electronic documents at the point of customs declaration, ceasing to require paper documents as a strict prerequisite for clearance. More information on e-Docs is available at the following [notice](#).

Organic Sticker Temporarily Allowed on Imported Products to India

- Until September 30, 2018, the India's Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will allow imported organic products to enter India with a non-detachable sticker of the FSSAI organic logo, as required per the Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017. After this date, a FSSAI organic logo must be included on the primary label of all certified organic products.
- Without the FSSAI organic logo, imported organic food products will not be allowed entry into India. More information is available at the following U.S. Department of Agriculture GAIN [report](#).

USDA Platform for Farmers Impacted by Natural Disasters

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has created a website designed to help farmers impacted by natural disasters. The website – [farmers.gov](#) – has tools and information to help farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers identify what USDA disaster assistance programs meet their needs.
- The website has a disaster assistance recovery tool, a portal for secure business transactions, as well as other resources.