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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Argentine Cherries Gain Market Access in Thailand**
- **EU Publishes Procedures for Import Checks**
- **Trump to Approve Japan Trade Deal Without Congressional Approval**
- **WTO Delays Decisions on U.S. Trade Disputes**

A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Argentine Cherries Gain Market Access in Thailand

- Argentina's Agriculture Ministry has [announced](#) (in Spanish) that Thailand has approved an export protocol for Argentine cherries that will open the market for the first time, beginning with the upcoming 2019/20 season.
- Thailand imported approximately \$16 million in cherries in 2018, primarily from Chile and the U.S.
- Argentina is a small but growing exporter of cherries. It is counter-seasonal to the U.S., offering cherries from November into February, according to the Argentina Association of Producers of Integrated Cherries (CAPCI). Argentina exported approximately \$15 million in cherries in 2018, primarily to China and the U.S.

EU Publishes Procedures for Import Checks

- The European Union has [notified the WTO](#) of its [rules](#) for performing documentary checks, identity checks, and physical checks for the import of food products.
- The [Annexes](#) lay out detailed rules on physical checks, including the range and percentage of goods in a shipment that are subject to sampling for plant products (page 6).
- The WTO notification indicates that the published rules are largely a continuation of existing regulations. They are scheduled to go into effect on December 14, 2019.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Trump to Approve Japan Trade Deal Without Congressional Approval

- On September 17, the White House [notified Congress](#) that President Trump has reached an initial trade agreement with Japan regarding trade barriers.
- Trump will not seek Congressional approval for the trade deal, citing the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act. The Act gives the president limited authority to alter tariffs if the tariff is not higher than 5%.
- The U.S. will also be entering into an Executive Agreement on digital trade with Japan.
- Details on the products affected by the deal are scarce.

WTO Delays Decisions on U.S. Trade Disputes

- The WTO has notified its members that the Dispute Settlement Body will delay several reports on several members' tariffs on U.S. products, due to the complexity of the issues involved. (*Continues on next page.*)

- WTO reports on tariffs placed on U.S. products by the [European Union](#), [China](#), and [Turkey](#) are now expected to be issued in the latter half of 2020. These tariffs were put in place in retaliation for U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs.
- The Chinese tariffs are the largest by value, and include a 25% tariff on imports of U.S. products, including fresh cherries.