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A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Taiwan Rejected Four Cherry Shipments in 2019

- According to the latest [USDA GAIN report](#) on rejected food shipments in Taiwan, there were four rejected shipments of cherries from the U.S. in 2019. The rejections were due to violations of the MRLs for cyflufenamid and fludioxonil.
- This report does not include shipments that were partially rejected or required to undergo further treatment but ultimately accepted.
- No changes are expected to the inspection procedure for cherries based on this report.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

China Reports Food Contact Material Violations

- The Chinese State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) conducted random inspections of food contact materials to determine whether manufacturers are complying with regulations.
- SAMR's [report](#) on the investigation found that 1.3% of composite film and bags and 3% of non-composite film and bags were found to be in violation.
- Only 0.8% of food contact paper tested was in violation of regulations. However, 7.8% of cardboard or paper containers were in violation, due to failures in the tests for heat resistance, strength, and leakage.
- There are no immediate regulatory consequences, but the investigation may be used in future actions.

New Pesticide Laws Expected to Hinder French Agriculture

- The FAS office in Paris released [a report](#) on France's controversial new pesticide buffer zone law, which came into effect at the beginning of 2020 and requires farmers to maintain a no-pesticide buffer zone of 5 to 20 meters around all treated crops.
- Tree fruit growers will be required to maintain a buffer zone of 10 m, or 20 m if the pesticide is considered carcinogenic, mutagenic, or reprotoxic under EU regulations.
- USDA and French farmers have argued that this law is likely to reduce French agricultural production per capita due to the financial burden on farmers and an increased likelihood of pest damage.
- France produces up to 60,000 metric tons (MT) of cherries per year, mostly for the local and European markets.

January 31 Brexit Date Adopted by U.K.

- On January 23, the Conservative government's Brexit proposal, which requires the UK to exit to European Union on January 31, became law. *(Continued on next page.)*

- While the UK will officially exit the EU, it will continue following EU regulations during 2020, which has been established as a transitional period.
- During 2020, the UK will establish new regulations to replace EU rules, which could include changes to tariffs or food standards. This process is expected to be complete by January 1, 2021, although an extension to this deadline is possible.

U.S. Will Not Levy Tariffs on French Products

- At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and French Finance Minister Bruno le Maire announced that the U.S. and France have reached a truce on France's proposed digital services tax, which the Trump administration criticized for unfairly targeting American companies.
- The U.S. will not introduce its [proposed tariffs](#) on French products and France will suspend its plans to collect the digital services tax.
- This is the second time France and the U.S. have reached a truce on the issue. In August 2019, a tentative agreement was announced, but it later fell through.