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### A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

### GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

#### USDA Publishes 2015 Pesticide Data Program Summary

- On November 10, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) published the [Pesticide Data Program \(PDP\) Annual Summary](#) for 2015, according to a recent USDA [press release](#). The annual report is designed to provide industry stakeholders and consumers with information regarding the level of pesticide residues found on commonly consumed food products.
- The USDA works with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine the specific food items which will be tested each year. In 2015, fresh and processed fruit and vegetables accounted for nearly 97 percent of the 10,187 samples collected. Cherries (fresh and frozen) were included in fruit and vegetable samples collected in 2015.
- Domestic products accounted for approximately 76 percent of samples while imported products accounted for 23 percent. Overall, pesticide residues exceeding established tolerance levels were detected in 0.53 percent of samples while residues with no established tolerance level were found in 3.9 percent of samples.
- Additional information about the PDP is available in the following [fact sheet](#).

#### European Council Publishes Details on EU-Canada Free Trade Agreement Provisional Application

- The European Council recently published information clarifying the specific aspects of the European Union (EU)-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) which will not be included in the provisional application of the agreement. The agreement was signed by EU and Canadian officials on October 30 at an EU-Canada Summit in Brussels, Belgium and is now undergoing domestic ratification procedures in Canada and the EU (*BCI Monitor* 11-1-16). The European Council [decision](#) on the provisional application of CETA does not identify tariff reductions as an aspect of the agreement that must be excluded from provisional application. Conversely, certain provisions related to financial services and dispute settlement between foreign investors and governments are cited as provisions which will be excluded from provisional application. Full entry into force of the agreement cannot occur until the national parliaments in each EU member state formally approve the measures which have been excluded from provisional application.
- The EU intends to [notify](#) Canada on February 17, 2017 of its intention to provisionally apply the agreement. However, European Parliament must approve CETA before this notification can occur.
- The parliamentary vote to approve the agreement may be delayed, as some members of European Parliament (MEPs) have [proposed](#) that the investor protection provisions of CETA be reviewed by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) to determine their compatibility with EU law.

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### *European Council Publishes Details on EU-Canada Free Trade Agreement Provisional Application*

- If MEPs vote to refer CETA to the ECJ, the agreement cannot be voted on until the court delivers its verdict. If the court decision finds the provisions of the agreement to be incompatible with EU law, CETA cannot enter into force. The plenary vote in European Parliament to determine if CETA should be reviewed by the ECJ is scheduled for Wednesday, November 23.

### **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Summit Held in Peru**

- From November 19-20, leaders of the 21 member nations of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum met for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual APEC Leaders' Summit in Peru. APEC economies account for nearly 60 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP) and 50 percent of international trade.
- In a [declaration](#) published following the summit, APEC leaders reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable and inclusive free trade and regional integration. As part of this commitment, the leaders endorsed a recently conducted study outlining the work that has been completed toward the realization of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). In a separate [statement](#) addressing the FTAAP study, APEC leaders cited both the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as valid pathways toward a broader FTAAP. According to the statement, APEC members intend to complete a comprehensive assessment addressing ways to transition from prospective regional agreements such as TPP or RCEP to a final FTAAP no later than 2020.
- During the summit, U.S. President Barack Obama met with the leaders of the eleven other prospective TPP member nations. According to a White House [press release](#), President Obama commended those TPP leaders who had successfully worked with their domestic legislatures to ratify the agreement and urged all members to continue to promote the TPP. Although Japan and New Zealand have already ratified the TPP, the Obama administration has stated that U.S. ratification of the TPP will be left up to the incoming administration of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, who has voiced plans to withdraw from the agreement.
- Trade between the U.S. and APEC members amounted to \$2.9 trillion in 2015. The next APEC Leaders' Summit will be held in 2017 in Vietnam.

### **World Trade Organization Launches Global Trade Alert System**

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) recently launched a new online service designed to provide stakeholders with the latest information regarding global market access issues, according to a WTO [press release](#). The system was created through a joint effort by the WTO, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the International Trade Center (ITC).
- The system—known as ePing— allows government agencies, businesses, and other stakeholders to receive alerts and view WTO member notifications relating to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues as well as technical barriers to trade (TBT).
- The WTO emphasized the value of the new system by citing the expansion in the number of new regulatory proposals, which has made it more difficult for producers and exporters to ensure product compliance. According to the WTO, over 3,500 SPS and TBT notifications are published annually.
- Users of the ePing system will be able to specify products and markets of interest and receive notices as soon as relevant proposals are published. Additional information is available on the ePing [website](#).