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A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Proposed Mediterranean Fruit Fly Quarantine in San Mateo County

- Effective immediately, the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services is implementing a Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) quarantine in San Mateo County, in the Half Moon Bay area.
- The quarantine is being implemented due to Medfly detections. A map of the proposed quarantine can be found [here](#).

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Found in Australia

- The Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) was recently found in a Sydney, Australia warehouse in a container that had arrived from Italy, according to media sources.
- BMSB is not currently found in Australia and the discovery has triggered a surveillance operation. The container and warehouse were both fumigated, and the surrounding area is being searched. BMSB is an agricultural pest that can cause widespread damage to fruit and vegetable crops, including cherries.
- The Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources developed [measures](#) to manage the seasonal risk of BMSB infestations in break bulk and containerized sea cargo from both Italy and the United States for 2017-18; however, this is the first year that goods from Italy will be actively targeted.

Mexico Appeals World Trade Organization Ruling on U.S.-Mexico Tuna Dispute

- Mexico is appealing a ruling by a World Trade Organization (WTO) compliance panel that had determined that the U.S. dolphin-safe tuna labelling requirements are WTO compliant.
- On October 26, the WTO issued the [panel reports](#) in the cases brought by the U.S. and Mexico and found that U.S. dolphin-safe labelling requirements for tuna and tuna products comply with WTO rules, and that the U.S. environmental measure does not discriminate against Mexican tuna products. The WTO ruling in favor of the U.S. stopped the potential Mexican retaliation of up to \$163.23 million worth of trade annually that was authorized by the WTO in May 2017.
- Under WTO rules, a panel report is adopted if either party so requests within 60 days of the report's circulation, or either party may appeal the report before it is adopted. Mexico filed a notice of appeal on December 1, extending the nine-year-old dispute.

Korean Government to Submit Plan on Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

- The South Korean government will submit a plan on the renegotiation of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) to its National Assembly on December 18. The submission of this plan will wrap up the necessary domestic procedures needed before talks can begin with the United States.
- According to the Korea Herald, the Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy has already completed two public hearings to collect opinions on KORUS, and has discussed related issues with 20 ministries and organizations.
- For the U.S., before talks can begin, the Trump administration must notify congress of its intent to launch negotiations as required under the 2015 Trade Promotion Authority Law.

World Trade Organization Annual Report on the International Trading Environment

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) released the Director-General's annual overview report on trade-related developments to members on December 4, 2017.
- The report found that WTO members introduced fewer trade-restrictive measures from mid-October 2016 to mid-October 2017 compared to the previous year, and WTO members continued to implement more trade-facilitating than trade-restrictive measures. There were 108 new trade-restrictive measures put in place, including new or increased tariffs, customs regulations, quantitative restrictions, and local content measures. However, during the same period, members implemented 128 measures aimed at facilitating trade.
- The U.S. accounted for the bulk of the global increase in antidumping duties, and the entirety of the global increase in countervailing duties during the period of review. On the countervailing duty side, the U.S. almost doubled the number of measures it imposed while the rest of the world imposed around the same amount as the previous year.
- There was a slight deceleration both in initiations of trade remedy investigations and in terminations of trade remedy measures compared to the previous annual overview and to the whole of 2016. The full report is available [here](#).

India Revises Inspection and Sampling Fees

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has published an order to revise inspection and sampling fees for imported food products.
- For a visual inspection fee, an online payment of Rs 2,000 is to be made by the importer along with the payment of a lab testing fee. The penalty fee for importers missing a visual inspection after two warnings is set at Rs 2,000. The first review appeal is set at Rs 2,000 and the second review appeal is set at Rs 5,000. Rs 2,000 is equal to \$31.08 at current exchange rates.
- The revised fees are in effect as of November 14, 2017. More information is available at the following U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN [report](#).