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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Requests Input About Commodities Not Included in Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

- The USDA is [soliciting](#) feedback from agricultural producers whose commodities are not already included in its [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP\)](#).
- USDA is seeking information to help assist in it deciding whether additional agricultural commodities should be eligible for CFAP. Cherries are not currently included in CFAP.
- Complete details regarding the submission process are available via the Federal Register notice linked above. Comments are due by June 22, 2020.
- In related news, the USDA also recently [announced](#) the availability of up to \$1 billion in loan guarantees for rural businesses and agricultural producers.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Organic Equivalency Recognition in Taiwan Expires

- Under Taiwan's 2019 [Organic Agriculture Promotion Act](#), as of May 30, 2020, Taiwan will no longer recognize foreign organic certification systems approved under previously-signed equivalency agreements (*BCI Monitor 1-21-20*).
- Previously, Taiwan recognized foreign organic certifications from over 20 countries, including the U.S. and many European Union member states. Bilateral negotiations to re-establish organic equivalency recognition are reportedly ongoing, while new equivalency agreements with Japan, Australia, and New Zealand have already been finalized.

UAE Provides Guidance Regarding Electronic Certificates

- The United Arab Emirates recently provided additional [guidance](#) regarding its electronic certificate [platform](#). The guidance provided uses a phytosanitary certificate example to outline how to use the QR code on the electronic certificate via smart devices to verify certification.
- The UAE has been issuing all animal and plant health certificates electronically since early May (*BCI Monitor 5-12-20*).

India Amends Safeguard Regulations

- India recently [notified](#) the WTO of changes to its laws regarding the use of safeguards.
- The changes outline the process by which the Indian government may determine whether a safeguard is warranted and how it may be set, including provisions for the use of tariff-rate quotas (TRQs). The rules stipulate that the Indian government may allocate a safeguard TRQ among supplying countries by notification in its Official Gazette.

President Trump Announces Revocation of Hong Kong Special Status

- On May 29, President Trump announced that the U.S. will revoke Hong Kong's special trade status and stop treating it as a customs union separate from China. This will mean the city will be subject to the same U.S. import tariffs and export requirements as mainland China.
- Earlier in the day, officials in Beijing stressed that China would impose countermeasures on the United States if President Trump moved forward with the anticipated action on Hong Kong.
- President Trump did not make any comments in regard to the U.S.-China Phase One trade agreement, which entered into force earlier this year.