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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Thailand Publishes Revised Pesticide Monitoring Procedures

- The Thai FDA recently published revised pesticide monitoring procedures on fresh produce which enter into effect on August 1, 2020.
- The original requirements were due to be implemented on June 15, 2020. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) helped secure the delay and revisions through discussions with the Thai FDA by highlighting the potential trade impact of the new protocol (*BCI Monitor 6-16-20*).
- Key changes in the revised procedures reduce testing on "high risk" produce from every shipment to a random basis. The list of pesticides to be tested for in the "high risk" produce category has also been reduced. Cherries are included in the "high risk" group.
- Details regarding Thailand's pesticide monitoring procedures are available via [USDA GAIN reporting](#).

GAIN Report on German Cherry Market

- A newly released USDA GAIN [report](#) focuses on the German cherry market, the world's third-largest destination for cherry exports.
- Over the past decade, Germany has imported between 52% and 77% of cherries consumed. It primarily imports cherries from other EU member states, Turkey, and Serbia.
- Opportunities for U.S. sweet cherries are at the end of the German domestic cycle, i.e., in August/September, where there is also less competition from cheaper Turkish cherries.
- U.S. cherry exports to Germany mostly occur through other EU member states, predominantly the Netherlands. However, in 2018 Germany imported cherries directly from the U.S. for the first time since 2012.

New Work Plan for Australian Cherries Exported to Korea

- Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has [released](#) a new work plan and protocols for Australian cherries exported to Korea.
- In 2019, Australia was the sixth largest exporter of cherries worldwide. In 2015 and 2016, Australia exported approximately 300 MT of cherries to Korea, but exports to Korea have been significantly lower in more recent years.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USTR to Hold Hearing on Trade Distortions Affecting Seasonal Produce

- The USTR, USDA, and U.S. Department of Commerce [announced](#) they will host virtual public hearings on August 13, 2020 and August 20, 2020 on how trade distorting policies are affecting U.S. seasonal and perishable producers and potential ways the Administration can better support these producers.
- This issue was discussed in the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement talks, but was not included in the final agreement. These listening sessions were scheduled earlier in the spring, but had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. The virtual sessions are being held instead.
- Requests to testify are due by July 27, 2020.

APHIS Requests Extension of Approval to Accredite Nongovernment Facilities to Conduct SPS Related Testing and Inspection

- APHIS is [requesting](#) extension of approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to collect information from nongovernment facilities, such as commercial labs and private inspection services, and accredit them to perform specific testing and phytosanitary inspections.
- APHIS seeks comments from typical respondents, including U.S. growers, shippers, exporters, and State and local plant health regulatory authorities, on how to minimize the burden of information collection through permitting electronic submission of responses.
- Comments are due by September 18, 2020.

Bulgaria Passes Food Act to Harmonize Laws with European Union

- In June, Bulgaria passed a comprehensive [Food Act](#) (in Bulgarian) after five years of consultations. The 2020 Food Act replaces the 1999 Food Act and serves to fully harmonize Bulgarian food laws with the regulations of the European Union, which Bulgaria joined in 2007.
- Key updates include new traceability and consumer protection requirements aligned with EU laws. The Act also establishes a National Food Advisory Council to advise on food policy issues.
- The Bulgarian government will issue more specific implementing regulations to ensure compliance with the Act over the next year. Additional details are available via [USDA GAIN reporting](#).

U.S. Ends Hong Kong's "Special Status"

- By [Executive Order](#) on July 14, 2020, the U.S. has formally rescinded Hong Kong's privileges from its "Special Status." During the press conference announcing the executive order, President Trump stated that the U.S. will treat Hong Kong the same as mainland China.
- The order gives 15 days for agencies to enact its requirements. The change in status will affect trade, export control, and visas between the U.S. and Hong Kong.