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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Thailand Updates Pesticide Monitoring Program for Cherries

- The Thai Food and Drug Administration (Thai FDA) has revised its pesticide residue monitoring program. The revised program will be implemented on October 1, 2021 (*BCI Monitors 5-26-20, 6-9-20, 6-16-20, 7-21-20, 7-28-20, 8-4-20*).
- Cherries remain in the “high risk” category.
- Fresh produce characterized as “high risk” will be subject to random sampling for pesticide residues. Exporters of “high risk” produce that wish to avoid random testing and delays may submit a non-mandatory Certificate of Analysis (COA).
- While cherries remain on the “high risk” list, the pesticides that Thailand will test for has been altered. In 2020, the targeted pesticides for cherries were *chlorpyrifos, glyphosate, fenpropathrin, and paraquat*.
- Starting October 1, 2021, there will be seven targeted pesticides for cherries: *Acephate, Methiocarb, Lambda-cyhalothrin, Phosalone, Triazophos, Fenpropathrin, and Phosmet*. A COA must test for all targeted pesticides.
- More information is available from a recent [USDA GAIN report](#).

USDA Releases Stone Fruit Annual Report on China

- The USDA FAS recently published the [Stone Fruit Annual GAIN Report on China](#).
- The report highlights that while cherry exports from the Pacific Northwest (PNW) are expected to increase in MY2021/22, California cherries are facing increasing competition from domestic supplies.
- Chinese cherry production is forecasted at 600,000 MT for MY2021/22, a 15 percent increase from MY2020/21. While 90 percent of Chinese cherries are harvested between early May and late July, farmers are beginning to plant varieties that can enter the market earlier.
- The report states that, according to industry sources, around 80 percent of Chinese cherries are picked prematurely to extend shelf life in absence of post-harvest treatment. This, coupled with different varieties, typically causes imported cherries to be considered more flavorful than domestic cherries.
- The FAS predicts that Chinese demand for cherries remains strong, with increasing per-capita consumption.

U.S. FDA Releases Cyclospora Action Plan

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently [announced the Cyclospora Prevention, Response and Research Action Plan](#) to address a growing number of reported foodborne illnesses related to Cyclospora contamination of fresh produce in recent years.

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U.S. FDA Releases Cyclospora Action Plan (continued)

- The Action Plan is modeled after the FDA's Leafy Green Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) Action Plan. Prevention actions include development of rapid test kits and stakeholder education. Response actions focus on expanding laboratory capacity and investigative tools for farms linked to outbreaks. Many action items aim to fill knowledge gaps, including through genotyping and data sharing.

New Zealand Announces Phase Out of Certain Plastic Products Over Five Years

- New Zealand recently [announced](#) its plan to [phase out certain hard-to-recycle plastics and single-use plastic items](#).
- The plan was previously released for consultation in November (*BCI Monitor 11-24-20*).
- Of note to the cherry industry, New Zealand will ban plastic produce bags and non-compostable produce labels by mid-2023. Degradable plastic products (e.g. Oxo and photo degradable) will be phased out by late 2022. All other PVC and PS food and beverage packaging will be phased out by mid-2025.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Vietnam Notifies Draft Food Inspection and Safety Protocols for Imported Goods

- On July 2, Vietnam [notified the WTO](#) of a [draft decree](#) (in Vietnamese) stipulating protocols for state inspection of quality and food safety for imported goods.
- The draft sets out management, mechanisms, methods, orders, and procedures for food safety inspection for goods subject to state inspection under the [Law on Food Safety](#) (unofficial translation provided by USDA).
- The draft would not apply to goods subject to both quarantine and food safety inspection as well as inspection by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- The proposed date of adoption is the end of July 2021 and the proposed date of entry into force is January 1, 2022. Comments are due by July 12, 2021.

EU Publishes Draft Rules on Import of Organic Products

- The European Commission has an [ongoing public consultation](#) on [draft implementing regulations](#) regarding the import of organic products into the EU.
- The draft lays out rules on the declarations and communications by importers, first consignees and consignees for placing imported organic products into the EU market.
- Additionally, it sets requirements for notification by member-states regarding suspected and established non-compliance.
- If adopted, the regulations will enter into force twenty days after publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* and shall apply from January 1, 2022.

EU Single Use Plastic Directive Enters into Force

- The European Union [Directive EU 2019/904](#) regarding single-use plastics entered into force with bans on some products effective on July 3 (*BCI Monitor 6-1-2021*).
- The European Commission has published [guidelines](#) to aid implementation of the directive, including examples of products covered within its scope.
- The directive includes an EU ban on single-use plastics where alternatives are available, establishes extended producer responsibilities by the end of 2024, and mandates reduction of single-use plastic items that do not yet have an alternative by 2026.
- Additional information is provided by a recent [USDA GAIN report](#).

UK Announces Daytime Bans on Advertisement of HFSS Foods

- The United Kingdom recently [announced](#) a ban on advertisement for foods high in fat, salt, and sugar (HFSS) from 5:30 AM to 9:00 PM on TV and on-demand programs, and restrictions on paid-for online advertising.
- Businesses with fewer than 250 employees and healthy foods in the HFSS category, including olive oil, avocados, and marmite, are exempt.
- The UK previously underwent public consultations on the topic in 2019 and 2020 and announced the advertising ban as part of its obesity strategy (*BCI Monitor 9-15-21*).
- The ban will enter into force at the end of 2022.

Korean Regulations on HACCP Certification Enter Into Force

- On April 20, 2021, Korea [notified the WTO](#) of [Regulations on HACCP Certification for Imported Food](#) (in Korean) (*BCI Monitor 4-20-21*).
- The regulations detail the certification process for HACCP-certified business for imported food, including procedure, application, implementation, review, and assessment.
- The regulations have taken effect as of July 1, 2021.