

AUGUST 25, 2020

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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Releases Annual Stone Fruit Reports for Japan, Australia, Chile, and Turkey

- USDA recently released its annual USDA GAIN Reports on stone fruit for [Japan](#), [Australia](#), [Turkey](#), and [Chile](#).
- Highlights of the reports include:
 - **Japan:** The USDA predicts that Japanese cherry production will rebound to 17,000 MT in MY 2020/21, which is a 5 percent increase from the previous marketing year but remains 9 percent below average production levels in the MY 2009/10 – MY 2018/19 period. Additionally, the USDA forecasts that Japan's import of sweet cherries from the U.S. will increase by 1 percent in MY 2020/21 as Japan reduces tariffs under the U.S.-Japan trade agreement. Japan's tariff on U.S. sweet cherries decreased from a pre-Agreement rate of 8.5 to 2.5 percent applied as of April 2020. The tariff will be eliminated on April 1, 2023.
 - **Australia:** MY 2020/21 production of Australian cherries is forecasted to increase by 13.5% to 21,000 MT. However, labor shortages due to COVID-19 may affect harvest totals. Due to increased production and COVID-19 related high air freight costs, domestic consumption is expected to see large increases.
 - **Chile:** Chili exported a record high amount of cherries in MY 2019/20, reaching 228,923 MT, with 90% going to China. For MY 2020/21, the USDA forecasts a 12.1 percent increase in production and a 13 percent increase in exports. By volume, the United States is a distant second to China for receiving Chilean exports.
 - **Turkey:** Sweet cherry production is forecasted to increase to 732,000 MT for MY 2020/21. The USDA forecasts that MY 2020/21 sweet cherry exports to be 80,000 MT, with Germany, Russia, and Iraq remaining the top three markets.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Australia Considering Harmonized Framework for Biosecurity Treatment

- The Australian Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment recently published a [notice](#) proposing changes to harmonize the nation's biosecurity treatment frameworks across import, export, and domestic pathways.
- According to the notice, current requirements for conducting biosecurity treatment for these pathways are inconsistent, creating unnecessary complexity.

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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

Australia Considering Harmonized Framework for Biosecurity Treatment (continued)

- A working group has been established to explore a harmonized framework and is using methyl bromide treatment as the first test case. The group is focusing on key items relevant to harmonization such as accreditations, methodologies, and audits.
- The Australian government is [seeking feedback](#) from stakeholders regarding this initiative until September 11, 2020.