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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

U.S. International Trade Commission Publishes Report on MRL Barriers

- The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) recently published its first [report](#) on the impact of plant protection product maximum residue level (MRL) policy on U.S. agricultural exports and global agricultural trade.
- The investigation was requested by USTR and reports on international and national approaches to setting MRL policies, MRL-related challenges for exporting countries, and the economic and production impacts of international MRL policies on U.S. and global agriculture.
- The California Cherry Board submitted comments to the USITC as part of consultations for the report.
- A second USITC report released next year will focus on the impact of MRL changes on U.S. producers.

Thailand's Revised Pesticide Monitoring Procedures Enter Into Force

- Thailand's revised pesticide residue monitoring of fresh produce entered into force on August 1, 2020 (*BCI Monitors 5-26-20, 6-9-20, 6-16-20, 7-21-20, 7-28-20*).
- Cherries are currently classified as "high risk" and will be subject to random testing for pesticides. If the test result is found to be noncompliant with regulation, the exporter's name and the type of product will be amended to the "very high risk" list.
- As further detailed in a recent [USDA GAIN Report](#), if exporters of "high risk" produce wish to avoid increased random testing, they can submit a non-mandatory Certificate of Analysis (COA) (*BCI Monitor 7-28-20*).

China Suspends Imports of Turkish Cherries

- According to [Produce Report](#), China has suspended imports of Turkish cherries shipped after July 25, 2020 in response to detecting pests in recent shipments. For Turkish cherry shipments still in transit, they will require fumigation until entry standards are met.
- While historically Turkey had exported very few cherries to China, in June 2019 it was [announced](#) that Turkish cherries imported to China would no longer be required to undergo 16-day cold treatment, opening up the potential for greater trade.

EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement Enters Into Force

- The [European Union Vietnam Free Trade Agreement \(EVFTA\)](#) (*BCI Monitor 6-9-20*) entered into force on August 1, 2020.
- EU tariffs on products from Vietnam will be reduced as follows:
 - The ad valorem tariff on fresh sweet cherries (HS 0809.29) will be eliminated upon entry into force, while the specific duty resulting from the EU entry price system will remain.

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EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement Enters Into Force (continued)

- Vietnam's tariffs on products from the EU will be reduced as follows:
 - The 10% tariff on fresh sweet cherries (HS 0809.29) will be removed in six equal annual stages.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Enforcement of Mexico's Front of Pack Warning Labels Released

- Mexico has [published](#) (in Spanish) a draft timeline for verification and enforcement of the NOM-51 Front of Pack Labeling Law. The updates are detailed in a new [USDA GAIN report](#).
- While the Front of Pack Warning Labels go into effect on October 1, 2020, there will be no penalties through November 30, 2020. Comments on the timeline are open through approximately August 20, 2020.
- The final version of the regulation was released in March and applies to pre-packaged food and beverages for retail sale. It mandates front-of-pack "stop sign" labeling to identify products deemed to include high amounts of calories, sugars, saturated fat, trans fat, and/or sodium. Temporary stickers will be allowed through March 31, 2021. Details on the regulation are included in a previous [USDA GAIN report](#).

The U.K. Seeks Input on Front of Pack Nutrition Labeling

- The U.K. Department of Health & Social Care recently released a [public consultation](#) with consumers and industry on front of pack nutrition labeling (FOPNL). The U.K. is considering updating its FOPNL guidelines as it leaves the EU but has no proposed changes currently.
- The U.K. is seeking comments on how to improve its current FOPNL scheme, other examples of FOPNL adopted internationally, and whether they should incorporate updated nutrition guidelines.
- The [consultation survey](#) will be open through October 21, 2020.