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A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

### Vietnam Opening to Chilean Cherries

- According to [Circular 546/2020](#) (in Spanish) of SAG (Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero), Vietnam will soon publish entry requirements for Chilean cherries, in time for the upcoming Chilean cherry season which begins in October.
- Meetings between Vietnam and Chile regarding cherries were [held](#) in March 2019 and an [agreement to open the market](#) was signed in May 2019 (in Spanish).
- Vietnam is currently the 7<sup>th</sup> largest destination for U.S. cherries, having imported 3,371 metric tons in 2019.
- Currently, Vietnam places a 20 percent tariff on U.S. cherries and 9 percent tariff on Chilean cherries. The tariff applied to Chilean cherries will decrease by an additional 2-3% per year until being eliminated on January 1, 2024.

### EU Updated Regulation for Control of *Xylella Fastidiosa* Enters Into Force

- The EU [notified the WTO](#) that it has finalized and implemented the updated regulation regarding control of *Xylella Fastidiosa* that was announced in June (*BCI Monitor 6-30-20*).
- The [regulation](#) was formally adopted on August 14, and entered into force on August 17, 2020.
- The changes include new measures addressing the import of host plants from pest free areas or production sites as well as conditions required for authorization as a pest free area.
- The list of regulated host plants (Annex I) includes fruits of the genus *Prunus*, including cherries.

### Taiwan Extends Temporary Approval of Electronic Import Documents

- Taiwan has extended the approved use of electronic import documents until December 12, 2020, according to a recent WTO [notification](#). The measure was originally announced on March 31 to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade (*BCI Monitor 4-21-20*). It was later extended through August 31, 2020 (*BCI Monitor 7-7-20*).
- Taiwan's Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ) will accept scanned copies of certificates sent by the exporting country's competent authority or by the representative office in the Separate Customs Territories of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu, or by Taiwan's representative office in the exporting country.

## Korea Publishes Draft Amendment Regulating Registration and Management of Overseas Food Manufacturing

- Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety [announced](#) (in Korean) a draft regulation [amending No. 2017-90, 2017.11.15](#) (in Korean), updating standards for the registration and management of importers and overseas manufacturers involved in the production, manufacturing, processing, and packaging of imported foods.
- Based on an informal translation, updates include:
  - Elimination of the requirement for in-person inspection if there is an in-person inspection within one year of registration or renewal.
  - Suspension of in-person inspections if the production of imported food has been discontinued for more than one year.
  - Postponement of in-person inspection in accordance with Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Travel Warning System.
- Comments are due to the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety by September 14, 2020, using the contact information in the announcement.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

### USDA Announces 2020 Virtual National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Meetings

- USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) [announced](#) the annual NOSB meetings will be held virtually, from October 28-30, 2020. NOSB assists USDA in development of standards for substances used in organic production and advises on implementation of the Organic Food Production Act.
- Oral public comments will be open prior to the meeting via webinars on October 20 and 22, 2020 from approximately 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. ET. The deadline to submit written comments and sign up for oral comments is October 1, 2020.

### USDA Releases Guide to New EU Organic Regulation

- A recently published [USDA GAIN Report](#) reviews the 2018 EU Organic Regulations, set to go into force on January 1, 2021.
- Under the new EU regulation, the current Organic Equivalency Agreement between the U.S. and EU must be renegotiated before its expiration in 2025. The EU is seeking to replace the current principle of equivalence with strict conformity with EU rules for organic imports.
- Notably, the new EU Organic Regulations also limit the use of natural flavoring, additives, and processing aids.

### WTO Releases Report on Impact of COVID-19 on Agricultural Trade and Labor

- This week, the WTO released new reports on the impact of the global pandemic on [agricultural trade](#) and [cross-border mobility](#).
- The report on agricultural trade summarizes trends in agricultural trade and measures taken by governments in response to COVID-19, including lockdowns, financial stimulus for the agricultural sector, and coping with agricultural labor shortages.
- The report finds that agricultural trade remained resilient compared to trade in other goods. However, trade in several food products, including fresh produce, dropped in April 2020.
- The report on cross-border mobility examines the pandemic-related difficulties for seasonal agricultural workers.