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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Canada New Labeling Requirement Enforcement Begins**
- **USDA Announces New Weekly Data Report on Seasonal Perishable Products**
- **Vietnam Publishes National Technical Regulation on Quarantine Pests**
- **USDA Publishes GAIN Report on EU Food Labeling Revision Roadmap**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Canada New Labeling Requirement Enforcement Begins

- On January 15th, Canada will begin enforcement of new labeling requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables, as mandated under Canada's [Safe Food for Canadians Regulation](#) (SFCR) which entered into force on January 15, 2020, with a one-year extension on enforcement.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables must be labeled with the following information, as [defined](#) in the SFCR:
 - Name and principal place of business of the person by whom or for whom the food was manufactured, prepared, produced, stored, packaged, or labeled
 - Fruit grade, where applicable
 - Net quantity, where applicable
 - Country of Origin
 - Lot code or unique identifier
 - Other labeling information, as applicable, including common name, variety name, list of ingredients, and irradiation symbol
- The Canadian government has provided a summary of [general labeling requirements](#) and [traceability-specific labeling requirements](#) under SFCR.
- A *lot code* is defined in the [SCFR: Glossary of key terms](#). Canada's Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) provides that the following items are also permitted to be used as a *unique identifier*, according to a [USDA GAIN Report](#):
 - Harvest Date
 - Grower identification number
 - GPS coordinates
 - Growing region (must be sub-national, state-level is accepted)
- Fresh fruits and vegetables exempt from the *lot code/unique identifier* requirements include:
 - Not consumer prepackaged (e.g. bulk display foods)
 - Prepackaged in a wrapper or confining band less than 13 millimeters in width
 - Packaged in a protective clear and transparent wrapper or bag which shows no additional information beyond price, bar code, number code, environmental statement, or product treatment symbol
- Additional background information including further definitions are available in the [USDA GAIN Report](#). For additional questions, businesses may contact CFIA at 1-800-442-2342.

A REPORT FOR
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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Announces New Weekly Data Report on Seasonal Perishable Products

- The USDA [announced](#) a newly established data report, the [U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement Seasonal Perishable Products Weekly Update](#). The new report will be prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC) with data from the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).
- The report will include easy-to-read descriptions of market trends on key imported specialty crops and commodities covered will vary by season and crop cycles. The report aims to satisfy the need for near-real time market information as highlighted in the USDA, USTR, and USDOC joint report on [Seasonal and Perishable Products in U.S. Commerce](#), released in September 2020.

Vietnam Publishes National Technical Regulation on Quarantine Pests

- Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has published a National Technical Regulation (NTR) establishing a zero tolerance policy for regulated quarantine pests in imported plant products. The NTR was promulgated in MARD Circular 15/2020 dated December 25, 2020; an unofficial English translation of the Circular is available via a recent [USDA GAIN Report](#).
- Section 2 of the NTR provides phytosanitary inspection details and Section 2.3.1 sets a zero tolerance policy for the regulated quarantine pests listed. The list, established in MARD Circular 35/2014, is divided into categories of insects, mites, fungi, bacteria, viruses, nematodes, and weeds.
- Circular 15/2020 enters into force on June 25, 2021.

USDA Publishes GAIN Report on EU Food Labeling Revision Roadmap

- The USDA recently published a new [GAIN Report](#) summarizing the European Commission's roadmaps of proposed changes to labeling requirements, as reported in last week's BCI Monitor (*BCI Monitor 1-5-21*).
- The EU is considering revisions to requirements on Front-of-Pack (FOP) nutrition labeling and nutrient profiles, expanding mandatory origin labels for new product categories, and expiration dates as part of the Farm to Fork Strategy.
- Comments are due by February 3, 2021.