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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USITC Publishes Second Report on MRL Barriers

- On March 2, 2021, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) released the [Global Economic Impact of Missing and Low Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels, Vol. 2.](#)
- The second volume of the report features case studies of the costs and effects of maximum residue levels (MRLs) compliance and noncompliance for U.S. producers, including specialty crops, and an analysis of the global impact of MRLs.
- The case study on sweet cherries is featured on page 63. The California Cherry Board submitted written testimony to the USITC as part of consultations for the report.
- The first volume of the report, released on July 30, 2020, included 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 (*BCI Monitor 8-4-20*)

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Mexico Allows Release of Shipments During Food Labeling Correction

- The Mexican Tax Administration Service (SAT) announced (in Spanish) that products with label errors, omitted information, and/or inaccurate data will be allowed to enter Mexico after paying a fine to customs authorities at the point of entry.
- Importers will then have a 30-day grace period to address and rectify non-compliance with labeling regulations, including new front-of-pack labeling regulations (NOM 051). The grace period entered into force on February 8, 2021. Product cannot be sold until approved as compliant.
- Previously, imported products with non-compliant labeling was held by customs.
- A [USDA GAIN report](#) outlines required procedures and other details on the new grace period.

China Approves New Food Contact Materials

- On February 20, China's National Health Commission announced an amendment (in Chinese) approving six food contact materials for new or expanded use, including:
 - Calcium hydroxide (CAS 1305-26-0) and alkanes, C11-15-iso- (CAS90622-58-5) as new additives
 - L. pigment blue15 (CAS 147-14-8), glass fiber (CAS 65997-17-3), and talc CAS 14807-96-6) for expanded use

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China Approves New Food Contact Materials (continued)

- 2-propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, polymer with N-(butoxymethyl)-2-propenamide, ethenylbenzene and ethyl 2-propenoate (CAS 26589-46-8) as a new resin
- No effective date is given for the amendment.

USTR Publishes 2021 Trade Agenda and 2020 Annual Report

- On March 1, 2021, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) [released](#) the [2021 Trade Policy Agenda and 2020 Annual Report](#) and an accompanying [fact sheet](#).
- One of the highlights of the fact sheet includes the new administration's commitment to "stand up" for U.S. farmers and food manufacturers by expanding global market opportunities and enforcing global agricultural trade rules.

Japan Releases Notification Regarding Voluntary Recall Provisions for Mislabeled Food Items

- The Japanese Consumer Affairs Agency published a [notification](#) (in Japanese) about the entry into force of [Law No. 97 of 2018](#) (in Japanese), which partially revises the Food Labeling Law.
- According to an informal translation, the law addresses notification processes for a voluntary food recall when food is mislabeled, specifically with regards to labeling of allergens, expiration dates, or whether food needs to be heated before eating. A fine of up to 500,000 yen applies for failure to make notifications and for making false notifications.
- The new recall requirements enter into force on June 1, 2021.