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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

France Extends Ban on U.S. Cherries

- France has [announced](#) (in French) a one-year extension of its emergency decree banning fresh cherries imports from countries where the use of dimethoate is permitted in cherry production. The ban, which was enacted in 2016, now applies until April 7, 2021.
- This disallows the U.S. as well as Canada from exporting conventional fresh cherries to France. It does not restrict exports of organic or frozen cherries to France.
- The value of U.S. cherry exports to France before the ban began was about \$1 million.
- According to USDA GAIN [reporting](#) on this topic, cherry production in France continues to decline due to the lack of access to dimethoate, creating opportunities for competitors in French export markets such as the U.K.

Thailand Implementing Strict Pesticide Testing Measures for Fresh Produce

- The Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently published guidelines regarding the testing of imported fresh produce for pesticide residues under Ministry of Public Health Notification No. 387. The measures will be strictly implemented on June 15, 2020.
- Imported produce are classified into low, high, and very high risk categories based on risk level. Imported cherries are included in the high-risk group. A Thai FDA official at the port of entry will take a sample to be tested from every shipment. Certain U.S. exporters of cherries are included on the [very high-risk list](#) due to past non-compliance issues. Shipments by these exporters will require additional testing until three consecutive shipments are found to be compliant.
- Additional details are available via USDA GAIN [reporting](#).

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Korea Updates Foreign Food Facility Registration Website

- Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) recently revised its [website](#) for the registration of foreign food facilities.
- Under the [Special Act on Imported Food Safety Management](#), implemented in 2016, all foreign food and food packaging manufacturing facilities developing products to be sold in Korea must be registered with MFDS. Registrations are valid for two years and must be renewed accordingly via the registration website.

EU Announces Farm to Fork Agriculture Sustainability Strategy with Goal of Reducing Pesticides

- On May 20, the European Union [announced](#) its Farm to Fork Strategy with the stated goals of “improving the EU food system’s environmental impact and safeguarding access to healthy foods.” This program will comprise part of the European Green Deal.
- The announcement [outlines](#) goals for reducing the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50%, with of more hazardous pesticides’ use reduced by 50% by 2030.
- The EU is also seeking to accompany these new requirements with policies that will help “raise standards globally.”
- While the EU states its intention to respect WTO rules and obligations while reviewing import tolerances for pesticides no longer approved for use in the EU, groups seeking import tolerances in the EU have faced significant challenges to date and perceive this policy to be trade restricting.
- The EU will establish a new “front-of-pack” labeling framework for sustainability. These labels will take into account nutritional, climate, environmental, and social aspects of food products sold in the EU.

China Notifies of Draft Standard for Contaminants in Food

- China recently [notified](#) the WTO of its draft standard for maximum contaminant levels in food. China published this draft domestically in January (*BCI Monitor 1-7-20*)
- The changes to [GB 2762](#) (in Chinese) included amended limits for lead, cadmium, and arsenic.
- Comments are due by July 10, 2020.

USTR Publishes Negotiating Objectives for Trade Agreement with Kenya

- On May 22, the United States announced its [objectives](#) for a U.S.-Kenya trade agreement, which it hopes will build on the African Growth and Opportunity Act, that expires in 2025. In general, the summary of objectives is similar to that published for trade talks between the U.S. and the UK, EU, and Japan.
- Regarding agricultural trade, USTR reports securing market access for U.S. goods through reduced tariffs, reducing the use of tariff rate quotas (TRQs), eliminating non-tariff barriers, and promoting regulatory compatibility among its chief goals.
- The document also discusses greater sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) cooperation between the U.S. and Kenya, including establishing mechanisms and rules to resolve SPS disputes and ensure SPS measures are based on science.
- Per the 2015 Trade Promotion Authority law, formal talks with Kenya may begin 30 days after USTR publishes its objectives.