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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Mexico Expected to Implement New Organic Import Laws in June 2021

- Despite requests for additional time for U.S exporters, Mexico has not approved an extension for [Mexico's Organic Law \(LPO\)](#) (in Spanish). The law is set to enter into force on June 26, 2021 (*BCI Monitor 4-20-21*).
- In a recent [USDA GAIN report](#), the USDA encourages U.S. stakeholders to prepare for compliance and provides analysis of the law.
- Mexico's National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) has provided an unofficial [translation of the LPO](#) to USDA.
- The LPO requires that U.S. organic exports be certified by a SENASICA-accredited certifying body, of which only 12 are also certified by the U.S. National Organic Program (NOP).
- The law currently targets raw and bulk products. An MOU between SENASICA and the Federal Consumer Protection Office (PROFECO) will expand the scope of LPO enforcement to include processed foods at the retail level. Products of interest to CCB listed in the current LPO scope include:
 - H.S. 0809.29.99 *Other* - LPO Annex I, Part F
- USDA notes that several of the products are listed as "others" and that SENASICA has stated its intent in these cases to include all other products similar to ones named specifically, but without their own tariff code due to small trading volume.
- USDA encourages U.S. stakeholders to contact SENASICA with questions at info.organicos@senasica.gob.mx.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

EU Publishes Study on New Genomic Techniques

- The European Commission published a [study on the status of new genomic techniques \(NGTs\) under EU law](#).
- In 2018, the EU's top court ruled that all techniques altering the genome of an organism should be governed by the EU's 2001 law on genetically modified organisms.
- The study finds that the 2001 law is unsuited for dealing with new biotechnologies such as gene editing.
- The study opens the possibility of NGTs usage in the EU, with the [executive summary](#) stating that NGTs have the potential to contribute to sustainable food in alignment with the European Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy.
- The Commission will next launch a consultative process with member state governments and other stakeholders. An inception impact assessment is expected in the third quarter of 2021, followed by an impact assessment.

USDA Publishes Translation of Draft EAEU Regulations

- On April 6, Russia and Kyrgyzstan notified the WTO of draft amendments regarding [phytosanitary quarantine requirements](#) and [amendments to the Customs Union Commission](#) (in Russian) (*BCI Monitor 4-6-21*).
- On April 27, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service published [unofficial English translations](#) of both draft amendments.
- The Eurasian Economic Commission will be accepting comments until June 5, 2021 at dept_sps@eecommission.org. Interested parties can also submit comments to the USDA at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov by May 21, 2021 for inclusion in the official U.S. position.

USDA Publishes Q1 2021 EU Green Deal Update

- On April 28, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service published its [quarterly update](#) on the European Union Green Deal, including actions taken in regard to the Farm to Fork Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy, Climate Target Plan, EU Methane Strategy, and Circular Economy Action Plan.
- January through March developments under the European Commission's 2021 Work Program include (among others):
 - In January, the Commission opened its public consultation on revisions to pesticide use policies and held an information session on MRL and Import Tolerance policy for third country embassies.
 - In February, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) begin developing a scientific opinion on harmonized front-of-pack nutrition labeling.
 - In March, the Commission published draft criteria to develop a list of antimicrobials reserved for human use (i.e. not allowed for farm use)
 - In March, the Commission published its action plan to promote production and consumption of organic products.

European Parliament Formally Ratifies EU-UK Trade Agreement

- On April 27, the European Parliament [formally approved](#) the [EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) with 660 votes in favor, five against, and 32 abstentions.
- The vote formally ratifies the agreement struck in December 2020 and provisionally applied since January 2021.
- The agreement establishes zero quotas and zero tariffs between the EU and UK with provisions for fisheries, consumers, air traffic, and energy.
- The European Parliament subsequently passed a resolution calling Brexit a “historic mistake,” but agreed to a cooperative relationship in the future.

China Publishes Draft National Standards on Plastic Cling Film for Food

- China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) has [published](#) a draft national standard for [General Requirement of Plastic Self-Cling Wrap Film for Keeping Food Fresh](#) (in Chinese).
- Comments are due on the draft regulations by May 14, 2021 to wangxiaoyan@samr.gov.cn.