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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

French Regulations Restricting Plastic Use for Fruit Packaging

- In February 2020, the French parliament passed an anti-waste bill [LOI n° 2020-105 du 10 février 2020 relative à la lutte contre le gaspillage et à l'économie circulaire](#) (in French) that includes measures against the use of plastic for labeling and stickers on fruit.
- The bill includes a ban on plastic packaging for fruit. The measure has also been [notified to the European Commission](#) through the TRIS system because it could restrict trade between EU member states. The French National Council for Food has also published a document listing [exempted products](#) (in French).
- Due to a large response to the bill, the period for comments on the packaging ban has been extended to September 13, 2021.
- Articles 77 and 80 of the bill also includes a ban on non-compostable stickers on fruits, which will go into effect on January 1, 2022.
- The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service recently [published a GAIN report](#) further detailing the French anti-waste bill and its implications for the U.S. fruit industry.

APHIS Publishes Environmental Assessment for New Biological Control of Spotted-Wing Drosophila

- APHIS recently [announced](#) that it has concluded an [environmental assessment](#) for permitting the release of the insect *Ganaspis brasiliensis* for the biological control of spotted-wing Drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*) in the continental U.S.
- The environmental assessment reached a preliminary determination that the release of *Ganaspis brasiliensis* will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.
- Comments are due on the environmental assessment by August 16, 2021 through the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#).

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

U.S. Treasury, Bank of Vietnam Reach Agreement on Currency

- In a joint statement, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and State Bank of Vietnam [announced](#) that they reached an agreement in which Vietnam committed to refrain from any competitive devaluation of the Vietnamese dong and modernize its monetary policy and exchange rate framework.
- In a [press release](#), USTR Katherine Tai welcomed the agreement. USTR also announced it will monitor Vietnam's implementation of its commitments and ensure that Vietnam addresses the acts, policies, and practices related to currency valuation that were found actionable in the Section 301 investigation.

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U.S. Treasury, Bank of Vietnam Reach Agreement on Currency (continued)

- In October 2020, USTR [launched a Section 301 investigation](#) into Vietnam's currency valuation and timber industry. In January 2021, USTR [found the country's currency practices](#) were “unreasonable and burden or restrict U.S. commerce.”
- Last week, numerous trade associations [penned a letter](#) to Ambassador Tai urging USTR to refrain from imposing tariffs on Vietnam stemming from the Section 301 investigations.

The UK National Food Strategy: Part Two Independent Review Released

- On July 15, the UK Food Standards Agency [announced that it welcomed](#) the recently published [Part Two of the National Food Strategy](#). The plan is part of an independent review commission by the UK Government to evaluate the country's food system.
- The newly released part of the National Food Strategy sets out to “present a comprehensive plan for transforming the food system” through 14 recommendations.
- The first recommendation includes the introduction of a sugar and salt reformulation tax. Food processors and restaurants would pay a £3/kg tax on sugar and a £6/kg tax on salt. Imported processed food would also be taxed according to its sugar and salt content.
- The second recommendation would mandate that all food businesses with over 250 employees publish annual data on the value and volume of food sales by category and food waste.
- The tenth recommendation requires the Government to set a list of core minimum standards covering animal welfare, environment and health protection, carbon emissions, antimicrobial resistance, and zoonotic disease risk to use during trade agreement negotiations.
- Additional recommendations seek to address agricultural production, reduce diet-related inequality, and set goals for additional government involvement in the food system.

EU Urges WTO to Focus on Sustainable Food Systems

- The EU has published a communication to the WTO titled [The Global Transition Towards Sustainable Food Systems](#).
- The EU believes the WTO should play a role in supporting sustainability objectives in agriculture through safeguarding member's right to protect human, animal and plant life in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement.
- The EU also encourages the SPS Committee to establish a work programme to address issues related to sustainability and trade, including identifying a list of policy objectives that can be legitimately pursued.