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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Releases Stone Fruit Annual Reports for Turkey and Chile

- The USDA has released two Stone Fruit Annual Reports this week. Cherries are discussed in the reports for [Turkey](#) and [Chile](#).
- Turkey
 - Sweet cherry planted area grew 18 percent from MY 2011/12 to MY 2020/21, and USDA/FAS estimates it will reach 204,000 acres in MY 2021/22. Over the same decade, production of sweet cherries increased by 65 percent as Turkey is transitioning to more modern, high-density growing techniques. Increases in sweet cherry production have largely been driven by exports.
 - Due to freezes in the prominent growing regions of Izmir and Konya, USDA/FAS predicts that total cherry production, including sour cherries, will be 860,000 MT in MY 2021/22, a 54,000 MT decrease from the previous marketing year.
 - In MY 2021/22, USDA FAS predicts that Turkey will export 78,500 MT of fresh cherries – a slight decrease in the previous year due to decreases in production. Turkey's top markets include the EU, Russia, and Iraq.
 - The most popular variety in Turkey is the *0900 Ziraat*, also known as the Turkish Napoleon. New varieties have been introduced for higher quality, later harvest, and/or higher yields, including *Sweet Heart*, *Celeste*, *Early Lory*, *Kordia*, *Regina*, *Same*, and *Sunburst*.
 - Turkish cherry season harvest extends from late May through August. The harvest period differs by 45-55 days between regions.
- Chile
 - Chile's cherry production has continued to grow. USDA/FAS estimates that total planting area in MY 2021/22 will increase to 104,000 acres, an 11.5 percent increase over the previous year. However, total production is expected to increase only 3 percent by volume, as producers focus on fruit size and quality over yields.
 - MY 2020/21 saw significant increases in cherry production due to good climatic conditions, increasing by 50.6 percent over MY 2019/20 to 384,000 MT. Exports saw a similar increase, increasing 54.3 percent to 353,231 MT.
 - During MY 2020/21, Chile's exports to its top four destinations increased as follows: China by 55 percent to 321,969 MT, the United States by 48 percent to 6,863 MT, South Korea by 70 percent to 5,414 MT, and Taiwan by 145 percent to 4,608 MT.
 - In January 2021, social media reports that a box of cherries tested posted for COVID-19 in Wuxi, China went viral, leading to a 59 percent decrease in price. While Chinese cherry demand recovered and is expected to stay strong, Chilean exporters are reportedly increasingly concerned with diversifying their top export markets. Of note, in October 2020 Chile gained market access for fresh cherries in Vietnam.

Mexico Publishes Proposed Updates to Organic Seals Used Under Organic Products Law

- Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) has [announced proposed changes](#) (in Spanish) to its *Organic Products Law (LPO)* to clarify the use of organic seals on products sold in the country.
- The draft changes are currently open to stakeholder feedback with an undefined deadline. Additional information, including an English translation of the proposal and images of updated organic seals, are provided in a recent USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA/FAS) [GAIN report](#).
- *LPO* amendments originally published in December 2020 require that U.S. organic exports be certified by a National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) accredited certifying body, of which only a limited number are also accredited by the U.S. National Organic Program (NOP). SENASICA provided USDA with an [unofficial translation of the updated LPO](#). In June 2021, Mexico [gazetted](#) (in Spanish) an extension to its compliance deadline for the new *LPO* provisions until January 1, 2022 (*BCI Monitor* 6-29-21).
- USDA/FAS suggests that U.S. organic exporters to Mexico continue working with SADER to become certified to *LPO* standards in advance of the compliance deadline.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Updates on Australian Plastics Plan

- In May 2021, Australia introduced a [National Plastics Plan](#) (*BCI Monitor* 6-29-21). The plan introduced National Packaging Targets for 2025 including: 100% of packaging being reusable, recyclable, or compostable, 70% of plastic packaging goes on to be recycled or composted, 50% average recycled content within packaging, and a phase out of “problematic and unnecessary” single-use plastic packaging.
- Most Australian states have also published plans to phase out single-use plastics.
- Starting September 1, 2021, [Queensland's single-use plastic ban](#) enters into force, which encompasses straws, stirrers, plates and bowls, cutlery, and expanded polystyrene food containers and cups.
- South Australia's ban on plastic straws, cutlery, and stirrers [entered into force on March 1, 2021. Beginning March 1, 2022](#), expanded polystyrene food containers and oxo-degradable plastic products will also be prohibited.
- The [Western Australia Plastic Plan](#) includes the following:
 - [Stage One](#): Banning plastic plates, bowls, cups, cutlery, stirrers, straws, thick plastic bags, and polystyrene food containers by December 31, 2021
 - Stage Two: Banning plastic barrier/produce bags, coffee cups and lids, polystyrene cups, polystyrene packaging, and oxo-degradable plastics by the end of 2022.
 - Further targeted consultation with industry on prepackaged fruit and vegetables in 2021.
- The [New South Wales Plastic Action Plan](#) includes a timetable for phasing out single-use plastic items, to be implemented after pledged legislative action. Upon passing legislation, New South Wales plans to ban the following items:
 - After 6 months: Lightweight shopping bags
 - After 12 months: Plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and expanded polystyrene food service items
 - Review in 3 years: Plastic bowls (including lids) and plates, plastic cups and lids, oxo-degradable plastics, fruit stickers (non-compostable), heavyweight plastic shopping bags, and barrier/produce bags
- Victoria has also [released plans for a single-use plastic ban](#). It plans to ban single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates, drink-stirrers, expanded polystyrene food and drink containers, and oxo-degradable plastics by February 2023.
- Hobart, the capital city of Tasmania, [ban on single-use plastics](#) including plastic cutlery, sauce sachets, takeaway food containers, takeaway plastic straws, plastic-lined noodle boxes, coffee, cups, plastic cup lids, and sandwich wedges entered into force on July 1, 2021.

Chile Gazettes Single-Use Plastic Ban Legislation

- Chile has published its law on single-use plastics in its Official Gazette. Ministry of Environment [Law No. 21.368](#) (in Spanish) establishes requirements and limitations regarding the use of single-use plastics and plastic bottles and encourages recycling. The law builds on [Law 20920 of 2016](#) (in Spanish), which created the framework for waste management and recycling in Chile.
- [Law No. 21.368](#) will prohibit the delivery of single-use plastic products to food service establishments beginning February 13, 2022. Other requirements, including certification to ensure single-use plastics contain compostable or recyclable material, will be phased in over several years. According to Ministry of Environment guidance, the percentage of compostable or recyclable material in the plastic product required for certification will increase over time.
- [Law No. 21.368](#), approved by the Chilean government in May 2021, followed Chile's publication of its [National Strategy on Marine Waste and Microplastics](#) (in Spanish) earlier this year (*BCI Monitor 2-16-21*).
- Additional details are provided in a recent USDA FAS [GAIN report](#).

Scotland Publishes Draft Single-Use Plastic and Expanded Polystyrene Ban Regulation

- Scotland [notified the WTO](#) it has introduced draft regulations titled [The Environmental Protection \(Single-use Plastic Products\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2021](#), banning the use of several single-use plastic and expanded polystyrene products.
- The regulations include market restrictions, effectively a ban, in line with the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive 2019/904. The market restrictions include banning the supply and manufacture of the following products:
 - Single-use expanded polystyrene beverage cups, beverage containers, and food containers
 - Single-use plastic cutlery, plates, and beverage stirrers
- The law additionally bans the supply of plastic straws and balloon sticks, with exemptions for certain business and medical applications.
- The proposed date of adoption of the regulations is November 2021, with entry into force on June 1, 2022. Comments are due by October 22, 2021.

English Translation Available of Guidance on China's Imported Food Labeling Requirements

- On July 29, China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) published interpretative guidance for Article 30 of [Decree 249](#). The USDA has since published an [English translation of the guidance](#).
- Article 30 covers labeling requirements for imported food with specific stipulations for fresh and frozen meat, aquatic products, health food, and food for special dietary purposes. The guidance document provides an explanation of health foods and special dietary foods and clarifies that Article 30 reestablishes packaging, labeling, and marking requirements that had been set in regulations repealed and replaced earlier this year.
- GACC has not yet released implementing regulations. Decree 249 is scheduled to enter into force on January 1, 2022 (*BCI Monitor 5-11-2021, 7-27-21*).

EU Consults on Revising Agricultural Products Marketing Standards

- The European Commission (EC) currently has an [open consultation](#) on [plans to revise](#) EU agricultural marketing standards to account for sustainability considerations, changing preferences, and evolving technologies. Reasoning behind its plans to revise the marketing standards is provided in an [Inception Impact Assessment](#).
- The EC is seeking comments from stakeholders across the supply chain, both in the EU and internationally. The consultation closes on August 31, 2021, at midnight Brussels times.