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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**USTR Announces Plan in Response to Seasonal Produce Hearings**

- USTR, USDA, and the Department of Commerce [released](#) a [report](#) on September 1, 2020 outlining the Administration's plan to address concerns heard during the USTR Seasonal Produce Hearings held on August 13 and 20, 2020.
- The report outlines six actions the departments intend to take, including:
  - Requesting the International Trade Commission to initiate a Section 201 global safeguard investigation on how Mexican blueberries have caused "serious damage" to domestic blueberry growers. Additionally, USTR and the International Trade Commission will investigate if a Section 201 investigation is appropriate for strawberries and bell peppers.
  - Senior-level intergovernmental discussions with Mexico over U.S. concerns regarding Mexican strawberries, bell peppers, and other seasonal and perishable products.
  - Several outreach programs for growers to enhance understanding of trade remedy laws, processes, and existing programs by the Department of Commerce and USDA
  - Establishing an interagency working group between the three departments to monitor seasonal products, coordinate on future investigations and trade actions, and provide technical assistance to Congress in developing related legislation.
- Additionally, USTR released full transcripts of the [August 13](#) and [August 20](#) virtual hearings.

**USDA Releases Annual EU Stone Fruit Report**

- USDA recently released its annual USDA GAIN Report on stone fruit for the [EU](#).
- The USDA predicts that EU cherry production will decrease by 5% from MY 2019/2020's total of 702,700 MT, with an estimated 17% decline in Spain, 5.7% decline in Greece, and 11% decline in Germany.
- Overall EU cherry consumption is predicted to decline slightly in MY 2020/21 to 747,000 MT. The EU is a net importer of cherries, primarily sourced from Turkey.
- The U.S. has been the fifth largest non-EU supplier of cherries. In MY 2019/20, the EU imported almost 500 MT of U.S. cherries, valued at \$3 million. In total, the EU imported 52,525 MT of cherries estimated to be worth \$168 million.
- In prior years, U.S. cherries were imported mainly through the United Kingdom, which is no longer part of the European Union.

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### *USDA Releases Annual EU Stone Fruit Report (continued)*

- In May, the EU Commission Regulation (EU) published MRLs for dimethoate. The MRL for dimethoate on cherries will drop to the limit of detection (0.01 ppm) on December 16, 2020.

### **Taiwan Extends Temporary Approval of Electronic Import Documents**

- Taiwan has extended the approved use of electronic import documents until December 31, 2020, according to a recent WTO [notification](#). Last week, the measure was originally announced to be extended through December 12, 2020 (*BCI Monitor 9-1-20*).
- Taiwan's Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ) will accept scanned copies of certificates sent by the exporting country's competent authority or by the representative office in the Separate Customs Territories of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu, or by Taiwan's representative office in the exporting country

## **GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:**

### **EU Publishes Amendments of Food Contact Materials Regulations**

- The EU published [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1245](#), amending [Regulation \(EU\) No. 10/2011](#), governing plastic food contact materials.
- The amendments include the authorization of use for several new additives in plastic food contact materials, changes in maximum detection levels, detection limits, and migration conditions for testing,
- The regulations will enter into force on September 23, 2020. Plastic materials and articles that both comply with Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 before the entry into force Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/1245, and where first placed on the market before March 23, 2021 may continue to be placed on the market until September 23, 2022. They can remain on the market until the exhaustion of stocks.

### **Japan Publishes English Translations of Food Contact Materials Regulations**

- The USDA [reports](#) that Japan has published several English translations of regulations relating to its positive list system for food packaging materials.
- Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) announced positive list system was announced in April and entered into force on June 1, 2020 with a five-year transition period (*BCI Monitor 5-5-20*).

### **Taiwan Announces Bulk Food Labeling Regulation**

- Taiwan [notified the WTO](#) it promulgated [Regulation of Bulk Food Labeling](#) on August 28, 2020, that was first proposed in August 2019. The regulations will enter into force on January 1, 2021.
- The regulations require that registered food business operators selling bulk food shall label the product name and country of origin. Bulk foods for baking or roasting and on-site ready-to-eat foods.
- The labels shall be labelled in Chinese and in the form of cards, label or notice boards that are clearly visible.

### **Australia Publishes Draft Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Rules 2020 for Comment**

- Australia has opened public consultations and [published](#) drafts of proposed export control rules for several agricultural product categories, including [plants and plant products](#), implementing the Export Control Act 2020.
- The new rules are set to enter into force on March 28, 2021, as part of Australia's improved legislative framework for agricultural exports.
- The public consultation will conclude on November 5, 2020 and is open to domestic stakeholders and international trading partners.