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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

EU Invites Comments on Applying EU Health and Environmental Standards to Agri-Food Imports

- The European Commission, [on request by the European Parliament and Council](#), is preparing a report on the legal feasibility of applying EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products and has opened a call for evidence. The resulting report is to identify concrete initiatives to ensure consistency in the application of EU standards in conformity with WTO rules.
- The [topic](#) will also be discussed during the EU's Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting on February 21, 2022. USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) published a [brief summary](#) of the call for evidence.
- The report will not have immediate regulatory consequences but is expected to inform the current and future political debates under the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy.
- Comments on the call for evidence can be submitted online through the [EU's Have Your Say Portal](#) until March 16, 2022.

Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook 2020/21 Published

- This week, the [Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook 2020/21](#) was published, covering the Australian Fiscal Year (AuFY) from July 2020 to June 2021. The handbook is the best publicly available source of Australian horticultural production statistics. Note, however, that this statistical year does not align with crop marketing years.
- In 2020/21, Australian cherry production bounced back to 2018/19 levels – producing 20,074 metric tons of cherries. Imports fell to 1,345 MT, the lowest level in the reported period, which goes back to 2012/13.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Australia Opens Public Consultation on National Biosecurity Strategy

- Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) [opened a public consultation](#) on the [draft National Biosecurity Strategy](#).
- Based on the draft strategy, Australia aims to design a more flexible, risk-based regulatory system that supports faster risk-based decision-making and traceability.
- Several stated priority actions may have future implications for imports to Australia, including:
 - Strengthen traceability arrangements
 - Enhance national surveillance arrangements
 - Working to shape global biosecurity standards, rules, and conditions
- Comments can be submitted by taking a [survey](#) or by uploading a written submission by March 18, 2022.

U.S. Codex Office to hold Public Meeting on U.S. Position of Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

- The U.S. Codex Office, USDA has announced via the [Federal Register](#) a public meeting on March 24, 2022 at 10:00-11:30 Pacific Time to provide information and receive public comment on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The CCFFV session will take place virtually, from April 25 to May 4, 2022.
- To be discussed are draft agenda items including matters arising from international organizations on the standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables, a discussion paper on glossary terms used in Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables, and consideration of the proposals for new work. Proposed draft standards for onions and shallots, berry fruit, and fresh dates will also be discussed.
- Comments can be sent to dorian.lafond@usda.gov and attendees can register through the [provided Zoom link](#).

Korea May Ease Inspection Requirements for Compliant Importers

- Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) has [published draft legislation](#) (in Korean) designed to facilitate imports by relaxing documents and on-site inspection in certain cases.
- According to informal translation of the proposed changes, documents and on-site inspection may be omitted for products imported at least 5 times per year by a business that has been registered as an excellent importer for the past 3 years.
- Comments on the proposal are due by March 3, 2022 to the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety at jwj1223@korea.kr.