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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA to Provide \$6 Billion in Disaster Aid for 2020, 2021

- On May 16, the USDA [announced](#) it would soon pay out approximately \$6 billion in emergency relief payments to commodity and specialty crop producers impacted by natural disasters in 2020 and 2021 via the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) new [Emergency Relief Program](#) (ERP).
- Existing Federal Crop Insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data was used to calculate initial payments. Qualifying natural disasters include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought and related conditions.
- Numerous California counties qualify for drought relief payments in [2020](#) and [2021](#). San Joaquin County qualified for drought relief in both 2020 and 2021.
- The FSA will send pre-filled application forms to qualifying producers with crop insurance and NAP data on file. Producers must have six forms, listed in the announcement, on file within 60 days of the yet-to-be-released phase one deadline.

Nominee Named for USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs

- On May 13, the White House [issued an announcement](#) that President Biden will nominate Alexis Taylor as Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Taylor has served as the Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) since 2016. Prior to ODA, she served as the USDA Deputy Under Secretary of Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (FFAS) and was delegated the duties of the Under Secretary of FFAS for ten months under the Obama Administration.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

APHIS Requests Feedback on Draft NAPPO Strategic Plan

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) [announced](#) it is requesting stakeholder feedback on the [draft North American Plant Protection Organization \(NAPPO\) Strategic Plan for 2022-26](#).
- Challenges and opportunities addressed in the draft strategic plan include: 1) responding to changing trade, travel, and climate conditions; 2) developing alternatives to traditional quarantine treatments; and 3) seeking additional technological innovations to address phytosanitary concerns.
- Strategic goals noted in the draft include protecting North American plant resources, facilitating safe and science-based trade policies, promoting stakeholder engagement, and supporting NAPPO activities.
- Submission instructions are provided on the [NAPPO consultation website](#) and APHIS is requesting that stakeholders submit comments by June 8, 2022.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

UK Delays Promotion Restrictions for HFSS Foods

- On May 14, the UK Government [announced](#) it has delayed promotion restrictions on foods high in fat, salt, or sugar for one year.
- Delayed promotions relating to [The Food \(Promotion and Placement\) \(England\) Regulations 2021](#) include volume price promotions such as multibuy promotions (ex. buy one get one free, three for the price of two) and free refills on soft drinks (*BCI Monitors 1-5-21, 7-27-21, 12-14-21*).
- Additionally, bans on daytime HFSS TV advertisements (between 5:30 AM and 9:00 PM) and paid-for online advertisements have been delayed and will now enter into force on January 1, 2024 (*BCI Monitor 7-6-21*).
- Other provisions of *The Food (Promotion and Placement) (England) Regulations 2021* restricting store placement of HFSS foods will still enter into force on October 1, 2022. HFSS foods will be banned from promotion and placement of HFSS foods at checkout, shop entrances, and end of aisles for businesses over 2,000 square feet and online advertisements on an entry page, while searching for other products, pop-up advertisements, or on a checkout page.
- A consultation on TV and paid-for online advertisements will be launched in the coming weeks.

RCEP Enters Into Force Between China and Myanmar

- [China](#) and [Myanmar](#) have announced that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement is in force for their bilateral trade as of May 1. Myanmar has not announced its ratification of the RCEP agreement, and it appears that only trade with China will be governed by the agreement per a bilateral understanding.

Brazil Announces Changes to the Government Entity Overseeing Plant Residues, Contaminants

- On May 10, Brazil gazetted [Ordinance SDA No. 574, of May 9, 2022](#) establishing the National Program for the Control of Residues and Contaminants in Products of Plant Origin (PNCRC/Vegetable) and defining the program's scope, objectives, criteria, and procedures for carrying out official controls. PNCRC/Vegetable has been upgraded to a program as part of a [broader effort announced](#) to control the supply chains of products of plant origin, including traceability and certification; residues and contaminants; quality; and anti-fraud actions.
- Establishment of PNCRC/Vegetable as a program was also [notified to the WTO](#) on May 13. Changes to the program will enter into force on June 1, 2022.