

JUNE 14, 2022

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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Analysis of U.S. Agricultural Exports to Vietnam

- The U.S. is Vietnam's largest agricultural product trade partner without a trade agreement, and U.S. exports are facing increasing competition from countries that have implemented a free trade agreement with Vietnam. A recent [USDA GAIN report](#) analyzes the challenges U.S. products face, including higher tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, and the effects on trade of Vietnam's three most recent prominent trade agreements: *the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)*, *Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)*, and *European Union-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA)*.
- Over the past three years, the U.S. has been the largest exporter of fresh sweet cherries to Vietnam, followed by Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Chile. U.S. cherries face a 10 percent MFN tariff, while each of the four other origin market cherries are imported duty-free under CPTPP.

USTR Announces Correction on Consultation of Proposed U.S., Taiwan Trade Initiative

- On June 10, the U.S. Trade Representative published a [correction](#) in the Federal Register for the [Request for Comments on Proposed U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade](#). The correction clarifies that the comment period will end July 8, 2022.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USTR Chief Agriculture Negotiator Nominee Named

- On June 8, the White House [announced](#) Doug McKalip as the new Nominee for the Chief Agricultural Negotiator of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). [USTR Katherine Tai](#) and U.S. [Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack](#) also published statements in support of the nomination.
- McKalip has served in the federal government for 29 years in agricultural policy and trade, including as the Senior Advisor to Sec. Tom Vilsack on all agricultural matters related to trade, national security, animal and plant health regulations; in a leadership capacity at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Biotechnology Regulatory Services; Acting Chief of Staff of the USDA; and the Senior Advisor for Agriculture and Rural Affairs at the White House Domestic Policy Council.
- The Chief Agriculture Negotiator is responsible for leading international negotiations related to trade in agricultural products.

U.S. Announces Several Trade Policy Partnerships During Summit of the Americas

- This week, the United States hosted the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles. Related to the Summit, several trade policy agreement, commitments, and initiatives were announced:
 - The White House [announced](#) the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity. In a [related background press call](#), a senior administrative official said the partnership aims to build on existing free trade agreements. A stated goal of the partnership is to build resilience in food supply chains.
 - The White House published a [Fact Sheet](#) regarding commitments to advance food security in the Western Hemisphere, with stated goals including promoting open trade.
 - The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative [announced](#) a new [Declaration on Good Regulatory Practices](#) (GRP) signed by Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, EL Salvador, Haiti, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, and the United States. Countries committed to plan and assess regulatory practices by the end of 2023.

APHIS Proposes Revisions to Domestic Quarantine Regulations

- On June 14, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) [published a Federal Register Notice](#) of a proposed rule to revise regulations governing domestic quarantines for plant pests. APHIS proposes removing lists of quarantine areas and regulated articles from the regulation and will instead maintain the lists on web pages maintained by the Agency.
- APHIS cites that the current rulemaking process does not keep pace with the expansion and contraction of quarantined areas for plant pests.
- Comments on the proposed rule are due by August 15, 2022, and can be submitted through the [Federal Register](#) or [regulations.gov](#).

Brazil Notifies Consultation on Draft Plant Product Inspection Regulation

- The Brazil Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA) [notified the WTO](#) of a public consultation on a [draft regulation](#) creating the Brazilian System of Inspection of Products of Plant Origin (SISBI-POV) and repealing [Decree No. 6268 of November 22, 2007](#) and [Decree No. 8446 of May 6, 2015](#) (all in Portuguese) (*BCI Monitor* 5-31-22).
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov until August 22, 2022.

EAEU Announces Draft Traceability Requirements for Quarantine Goods

- On June 2, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) [announced](#) draft [procedures for traceability of regulated products \(quarantine cargoes, quarantine materials, regulated goods\) imported into the customs territory](#) (in Russian). The draft procedures include a list of information that must be submitted to phytosanitary control of imported regulatory products.
- Products listed as subject to the regulations include cherries and black cherries, fresh (HS 0809).
- Members of the EAEU include Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.
- All provisions of the regulation, except paragraph 22, will enter into force one year after adoption. A public comment period will be open June 17 - August 16, 2022. Comments can be submitted through the Legal Portal or by email to info@eecommission.org or dept_sps@eecommission.org.

UK Publishes Draft Single-Use Plastic Ban

- The United Kingdom (UK) published the draft [United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 \(Exclusions from Market Access Principles: Single-Use Plastics\) Regulations 2022](#), amending the *United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020* to ban expanded or extruded polystyrene food containers (*BCI Monitor* 8-24-21).
- The regulations extend to England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.
- Scotland's similar ban already entered into force on June 1, 2022.
- The final regulations shall come into force on the twenty-first day after they are published.

Japan Publishes Draft Amendments Regarding Labeling of Foods for Specified Health Use

- On June 8, the Japanese Consumer Affairs Agency [announced](#) a consultation on the [partial amendment bill "regarding permission for labeling of foods for specified health use"](#) (in Japanese).
- The amendments are divided into five separate attachments that detail amendments related to facilitation of the application procedure; reducing burden associated with permits; and labeling regarding calcium, folic acid, foods with multiple health uses, and dental cavities.
- Comments are due by July 7, 2022, with instructions in the announcement.

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