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A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

U.S., Taiwan Launch Trade Initiative

- On June 1, the U.S. Trade Representative [announced](#) the launch of the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade. The initiative will serve as a roadmap for future negotiations on, “agreements with high-standard commitments and economically meaningful outcome” in multiple stated trade areas.
- Among the trade areas included is agriculture. Specifically, the statement says, “The United States and Taiwan intend to explore provisions to facilitate agricultural trade through science and risk-based decision making and through adoption of sound, transparent regulatory practices.” Other pertinent listed topics include trade facilitation, regulatory practices, and standards.
- Market access through tariff reductions will not be part of the negotiations.
- On June 7, the USTR published a [request for comment on the initiative via the Federal Register](#) and is explicitly seeking comments on “agriculture-related” matters. Comments will be open through July 8, 2022.

Canada Grants Funds to BC Cherry Association for Market Access Work

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada recently [announced](#) it had granted up to 236,847 CAD (188,100 USD) to The BC Cherry Association to, “identify new opportunities to gain access to new export markets and increase export values through promotion of Canadian Cherries.”

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

EU Publishes Report on Applying EU Health and Environmental Standards to Agri-Food Imports

- The European Commission (EC) has [published a report](#) on the legal feasibility of applying EU health and environmental standards to imported agriculture and agri-food products. A call for evidence related to the report was published in February (*BCI Monitor 2-22-22*).
- The report concludes that the EU can extend health and environmental standards to imported products on a multilateral or bilateral basis, and autonomously on a case-by-case basis if the rules comply with relevant WTO rules.
- The report will not have immediate regulatory consequences but is expected to inform the current and future political debates and legislation under the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy.
- 160 responses were recorded from a wide range of global agricultural interest groups and governments. Feedback included, but is not limited to, responses from the [USDA Foreign Agricultural Service](#), [Minor Crop Farmer Alliance](#), [CropLife America](#), and [CropLife International](#).

Thailand Simplifies Labeling of Products with “Premium”

- Thailand published [Announcement of the Ministry of Public Health \(No. 433\) B.E.](#), repealing clause 2 of *Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 365) B.E. 2556* on the requirement to seek approval by the Ministry of Public Health when labeling a product with the term “Premium”.
- The announcement enters into force one day after publication in the official gazette. The date of gazettal is uncertain.

U.S., New Zealand Relaunch Annual Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Talks

- On May 31, the U.S. and New Zealand [announced via a joint statement](#) that they will be relaunching annual Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) talks. The bilateral talks, in conjunction with the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), aim to deepen the two countries’ economic ties and expand trade.
- The U.S. and New Zealand last held TIFA talks in 2019.

Spain Notifies Draft Packaging Law

- Spain [notified the WTO](#) of the draft [Royal Decree on Packaging and Packaging Waste](#) (in Spanish), transposing *Directive (EU) 2018/852 on packaging and packaging waste* and certain provisions of *Directive (EU) 2019/904* related to extended producer responsibility (*BCI Monitors 9-28-21, 5-10-22*).
- The draft law shall be adopted by December 31, 2022, with entry into force on January 1, 2023.
- Of note to the California Cherry Board, based on the proposed date of entry into force and Article 7(4), by March 31, 2022, food retailers will be provided a list of fruits and vegetables exempt from the obligation to be sold in loose format unless packaged in lots of 1.5 kg or more. Enforcement of this requirement will start four months after publication of such list, that is August 1, 2023.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov by July 31, 2022.

UK Publishes Guidance on Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations

- The United Kingdom (UK) recently [published](#) guidance on “Packaging waste: prepare for extended producer responsibility”, explaining who needs to prepare for the entry into force of extended producer responsibility (EPR) on January 1, 2023, how to prepare, and how data should be collected and submitted.
- EPR for packaging was introduced in the [Environmental Act 2021](#) (*BCI Monitor 11-23-21*).

Taiwan Notifies Ban of PVCs in Food Packaging

- On June 3, Taiwan [notified](#) the WTO it has gazetted the measure [Restriction on the Production, Importation and Sales of Plate Packaging Material Containing Polyvinyl Chloride \(PVC\), Designated Recyclable Containers and Non-plate Disposable Tableware Containers](#) under Article 21 of the *Waste Disposal Act*, banning the use of PVC in food packaging (*BCI Monitor 5-3-22*).
- As of July 1, 2023, only products imported or manufactured before July 1 will be allowed for sale.

EU Opens Public Consultation on Revised Waste Framework

- On May 24, the European Commission (EC) opened public consultation on its regulatory [initiative](#) regarding improved waste management. The initiative will revise the *Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC)*.
- The specific objectives are to reduce waste generation (including food waste reduction), increase re-use, and improve separate collection to promote re-use and quality of recycling.
- Comments can be submitted by filling out an [online questionnaire](#) by August 16, 2022. The EC will publish a draft directive by the end of June 2023 to start the legislative procedure in European Parliament and Council.

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