

JANUARY 24, 2023

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**SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:**

**U.S. and EU Announce Tariff Rate Quota Agreement**

- The U.S. and European Union (EU) have [announced](#) an [agreement](#) that revises tariff rate quota (TRQ) concessions by the EU on some U.S. products in response to the United Kingdom's (UK) departure from the EU.
- The agreement specifies (on page 25) for cherries (from 21 May to 15 July) that the EU volume of the global quota shall be adjusted from 800 tonnes to 105 tonnes.
- The U.S. exported \$11.1 billion in agricultural goods to the EU from January-November 2022.

**Australia Opens Consultation on Methyl Bromide Fumigation Methodology**

- On January 23, Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry (DAFF) [announced](#) an [industry consultation](#) on an updated [Methyl Bromide Fumigation Methodology \(Version DRAFT2.5\)](#).
- DAFF has provided a [summary of changes](#), and a detailed [comparison table](#). Changes to the process include, but are not limited to:
  - Changes to the temperature sections, including requiring the temperature of an enclosure be recorded every 60 minutes and precautions for if the forecast minimum temperature is near the bottom of the temperature range (Sections 6 and 7)
  - Removing the option of topping up if the concentration falls below standard during exposure and allowing topping up if exposure period is under 12 hours (Section 10)
  - Removal of requirements for leak checking and requirements to create an air flow barrier (Section 4.1)
  - Changes regarding gas concentration monitoring locations and techniques (Section 5)
- California cherries are required to undergo methyl bromide fumigation for export to Australia.
- Most other changes serve to modify the *Methodology* document for clarity.

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

**USDA Upcoming Trade Missions Focus on Central America, Europe, and Japan**

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) currently has three [trade missions](#) planned between March and June 2023.
- Applications have closed for a trade mission to Panama from March 19-23 which will focus on exploring opportunities to expand U.S. exports to Panama and the rest of Central America. Trade is supported by the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Central America and Dominican Republic FTA (CAFTA-DR) which includes Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

*USDA Upcoming Trade Missions Focus on Central America, Europe, and Japan (continued)*

- Applications for the trade mission to the Netherlands from April 17-20 are due by January 26. The mission will include networking activities with trade from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Scandinavian countries.
- More information regarding a trade mission to Japan from June 5-9 is expected to be published soon. The United States is the largest foreign supplier of food and agricultural products to Japan.