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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Reports on Global Stone Fruit Production

- The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) recently published its global annual [Stone Fruit: World Markets and Trade report](#).
- Global cherry production in 2023-24 is forecast to increase slightly by 114,000 tons to 4.8 million tons as reduced production in Europe due to poor weather offset gains in Chile, China, Turkey, and the United States. However, growing shipments from the U.S. and Turkey are expected to boost exports by over 100,000 tons to a record of 773,000 tons.
- U.S. production of cherries is forecast to rebound strongly, surging by over 100,000 tons to 421,000 tons. California, Oregon, and Washington's crops of sweet cherries are expected to rebound well from the previous year's weather damage. Higher supplies are expected to boost exports, doubling to 82,000 tons and increasing shipments to most markets: if so, the United States would surpass Turkey to become the leading Northern Hemisphere exporter once again.
- Turkey's cherry production is expected to rise by 70,000 tons to 900,000 tons due to rains and new high-yield plantings come into production, with exports forecast to surge by 17,000 tons to 75,000 tons. These exports are likely to include higher shipments to the European Union due to increased demand.
- China's cherry production is expected to rise by 80,000 tons to 760,000 tons due to good growing conditions in the Shandong, Sichuan, and Liaoning provinces. Acreage continues to expand and investments such as tree coverings for rain protection continue to improve cherry quality. Imports are expected to improve 32,000 tons to 410,000 tons as strong demand is supported by growing shipments from Chile and the recovery of U.S. supply.
- Chile's cherry production is up 31,000 tons to 502,000 tons, due to new trees coming into production. With this increased production and growing demand from China, exports are expected to rise by 25,000 tons to 440,000 tons. China accounts for around 90% of Chile's total exports, though exports to other markets have been increasing as Chile works to diversify export markets.
- European Union cherry production is forecast to drop by over 20%, falling 174,000 tons to 657,000 due to frost and heavy rains causing damage to production. Exports are expected to remain static at 15,000 tons as reduced supplies discourage expanded shipments and trade remains largely intra-E.U.
- Russian cherry imports are projected to increase after two years of decline, rising from 20,000 tons to 120,000. Reduced shipments from Turkey are more than offset by growing shipments from Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan.

A REPORT FOR
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CHERRY BOARD

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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

China Publishes Updated Food Safety Standards for Packaging Materials

- On September 25, China's National Health Commission (NHC) [published](#) a [list](#) (links in Chinese) of new and amended national food safety standards.
- The list includes the following specific standards of interest for food packaging:
 - *GB 4806.7-2023* National food safety standard for plastic and plastic food contact material
 - *GB 4806.9-2023* National food safety standard for metal and metal food contact material
 - *GB 4806.11-2023* National food safety standard for rubber and rubber food contact material
 - *GB 4806.14-2023* National food safety standard for inks and ink food contact material
- According to machine translation, standard texts can be downloaded via the [National Food Safety Standard Data Retrieval Platform](#) (in Chinese, link may be unstable).

UK Opens Objection Window for Duty Suspension Applications

- The United Kingdom (UK) Government has [announced](#) a four-week objection window on the [published list](#) of products and HS code classifications for which new duty suspensions are being considered. The list gives a description of the suspension under consideration and notes HS codes for guidance.
- Of note to CCB, duty suspensions are being considered for fresh cherries (HS 0809.29).
- The duty suspension application period was open from June 12 – August 6, 2023 (*BCI Monitor 6-20-23*). UK businesses could apply for a duty suspension to remove import duties on certain goods normally used in domestic production that are not currently being produced in sufficient quantities domestically. Suspensions are typically implemented for a two-year period, apply to imported goods from all origins, and can be used by any UK business while in force.
- Feedback may be submitted through an [objections form](#) by October 18, 2023.