

JULY 9, 2024

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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Publishes Stone Fruit Annual Report for China

- On July 5, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) published its [Stone Fruit Annual Report for China](#).
- FAS estimates that cherry acreage in marketing year (MY) 2024/25 will increase from the previous year due to expansion in the northwest and southwest, though at a slower pace than in previous years as the central government has introduced policies to regulate farmland usage.
- FAS forecasts that cherry production in MY 2024/25 will increase by 6% from the previous year to 850,000 metric tons (MT), as drought conditions did not impact northern production areas such as Shandong, Henan, and Hebei until the end of the cherry season. Additionally, the production area has expanded with increased bearings. Production for MY 2023/24 is estimated to have been 800,000 MT.
- FAS estimates that cherry exports in MY 2024/25 will increase by 590% to 200 MT from the previous year. In MY 2023/24, cherry exports increased by 314% to 29 MT.
- FAS predicts that China's cherry imports in MY 2024/25 will increase by 8% to 420,000 MT due to enhanced marketing efforts by exporting countries. Much of this will come from Chile, whose cherry production is expected to double in the coming years due to expanded crop area. The U.S. remains China's largest supplier in the northern hemisphere, with exports expected to continue to increase in MY 2024/25 as U.S. production increases, with adequate fruit sizes and brix levels that will attract the attention of Chinese buyers.
- U.S. cherries continue to face retaliatory tariffs originally imposed in 2018. Fruit importers can apply for a tariff exclusion from China's Section 301 tariffs; however, this process does not include China's retaliatory Section 232 tariffs, which require an additional 15% import tariff on top of MFN duties.

European Union Notifies Draft Amendments to Organic Product Import Regulations

- On July 5, the European Union (EU) [notified](#) the WTO of [draft amendments](#) to organic product import regulations regarding the inspection of products classified as high-risk.
- Under the EU's current organic product import regulations [Commission Regulation 2021/1698](#) and [Commission Regulation 2021/2306](#), 100% of non-EU imported high-risk organic products are inspected and sampled by authorities.
- The draft amendments would lower the standard rate of checks and establish a specific list of high-risk products with inspection percentages based on cases of continued product non-compliance.
- Adoption is planned in the last quarter of 2024 and the regulation will enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the EU.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov. The WTO comment deadline is September 3, 2024.

A REPORT FOR
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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

China Opens Fourth Consultation on Draft Labeling of Prepackaged Food Standard

- On June 27, China's Department of Food Safety Standards, Monitoring and Evaluation released [Food Standards Regulation Issue No. 5 of 2024](#) (in Chinese) on a "Letter from the Secretariat of the National Food Safety Standard Review Committee on Soliciting Opinions on 14 National Food Safety Standards (Draft for Comments)...". The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) also published a [GAIN Report](#) with an unofficial English translation of the announcement.
- Included in the list of standards open for comment is the fourth draft edition of *GB 7718-2011 General Rules for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods* ([English translation of current standard](#)). The draft standard is not available from the announcement. BCI has reached out to the U.S. Embassy to obtain a copy of the further revisions to the standard.
- Notably, China has published and notified the WTO of proposed amendments to *GB 7718-2011* several times in 2024 and USDA FAS has also published several GAIN Reports providing unofficial English translations of the drafts ([most recent](#)) (*BCI Monitor* 1-30-24, 2-13-24, 2-20-24, 3-19-24).
- Comments are due by July 10, 2024, and can be submitted online via China's [National Food Safety Standards Management Information System](#).