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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

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## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**USDA Publishes Stone Fruit Annual Report for the EU**

- On August 29, the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) published its [Stone Fruit Annual Report](#) for the European Union (EU).
- In marketing year (MY) 2024-25, total EU cherry production is expected to reach 715,346 metric tons (MT). This is an increase of 1.5% from the previous year, when unfavorable weather in Poland and Italy reduced yield. Production levels are still lower than average in major producing countries due to continued weather issues. Total planted area declined slightly to 153,093 hectares.
- Consumption of cherries, including cherries for processing, is forecast to increase by 1% to 758,346 MT, in line with the slightly increased production.
- The EU is a net importer of cherry products, with nearly 70% of imports sourced from Turkey. Other suppliers include Serbia, Chile, and Argentina. During 2023-24, imports increased to 57,923 MT, and in 2024-25, imports are expected to continue to increase to 60,000 MT.
- Extra-EU cherry exports are forecast to return to average levels after last year's low levels due to lower production, increasing by 39.5% to 17,000 MT. These exports are primarily sent to the U.K., Switzerland, Russia, and Ukraine.

**U.S. National Organic Standards Board to Meet October 2024**

- On August 30, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), [announced](#) a meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to discuss and vote on proposed recommendations pertaining to organic agriculture and receive comments from the organic community.
- An in-person meeting will take place at the Hilton Portland Downtown on October 22 – 24, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific time; the NOSB also intends to include a virtual broadcast of the meeting. Agenda items and further meeting details can be found on the [AMS USDA website](#) for the meeting.
- The NOSB will hear oral public comments via webinars on October 15 and 17, 2024. Details will be posted on the AMS site when registration opens for these webinars.
- Alternatively, written comments may be submitted on the [Regulations.gov page](#) for the meeting; the written comment deadline is September 30, 2024.
- Further questions can be directed to the NOSB Advisory Committee Specialist, Michelle Arsenault, at [michelle.arsenault@usda.gov](mailto:michelle.arsenault@usda.gov).

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**UK to Officially Join CPTPP by Mid-December 2024**

- On August 29, the United Kingdom's (UK) Department for Business and Trade [announced](#) that the UK had secured the sixth and final ratification required to confirm their accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) (*BCI Monitor 5-21-24*).
- The six CPTPP members to initially ratify the UK's accession are Peru, Japan, Singapore, Chile, New Zealand, and Vietnam. The agreement will come into force with these members by December 15, 2024, and subsequently with other members as they ratify the accession.

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### Brazil Opens Consultation on Food Contact Material Regulation

- On August 27, Brazil's National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) [opened a public consultation](#) (in Portuguese) on a draft resolution amending *RDC Resolution No. 88 of 2016* regarding cellulose-based food contact materials. On September 2, Brazil also [notified the WTO](#).
- According to machine translation, the proposal involves revising existing regulations to include stricter controls on the use of diisopropylanthalene in products using recycled fibers.
- Comments can be submitted electronically through ANVISA's website or sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at [usatbtep@nist.gov](mailto:usatbtep@nist.gov). The comment deadline is October 21, 2024.

### USTR Requests Input on Foreign Trade Barriers for 2025 National Trade Estimate Report

- On September 3, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) [published](#) a request in the Federal Register for assistance in identifying significant foreign barriers to U.S. exports of goods and services for this year's National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE Report).
- USTR specifically solicits input on the following categories of foreign trade barriers:
  - Import policies
  - Technical barriers to trade
  - Sanitary and phytosanitary measures
  - Government procurement
  - Intellectual property protection
  - Services
  - Electronic commerce/digital trade
  - Investment
  - Subsidies
  - State-owned enterprises
  - Labor
  - Environment
  - Other barriers
- Comments are due October 17, 2024, and can be submitted through [Regulations.gov](#), using Docket Number USTR-2024-0015.

### USDA Report on Expected Requirements for Kosher, Halal, and Organic Claims in South Africa

- On August 26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) published a [report](#) on new expected South African requirements related to "control management systems".
- The new regulations will develop a framework for the substantiating of label claims made by producers of both domestic and imported food, particularly kosher, halal, and organic claims.
- USDA reports that the specific requirements for substantiating label claims remains unclear however, officials indicated that importers may be required to submit a letter from the exporting country's certifying authority explaining the control management system used in the imported product's country of origin.
- The South African Department of Agriculture is currently reviewing feedback received during the domestic comment period, which closed June 21, 2024. Revised draft regulations are expected to be circulated after the comments have been incorporated.
- The South African Department of Agriculture indicated to FAS that it currently does not have any plans to notify the measure to the WTO. The regulations are expected to come into force on May 24, 2025, though this timeline may be adjusted to accommodate stakeholder input.