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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:**Argentine Fruit Sector Urges Government Action Amid Mounting Economic Pressure**

- A group of Argentine fruit associations, including cherry producers, have jointly called on the Argentine government to increase support for the sector, according to a recent [update](#) (in Spanish) by the Argentina Citrus Federation.
- These associations have held meetings with various national authorities to highlight the urgent challenges the sector faces, and are warning that without government action, some producers may be forced to cease operations, causing a long-term contraction in production and exports. The groups highlighted that Argentina's fruit industry contributes over \$500 million in annual exports.
- The groups report that the sector is burdened by an increasingly untenable economic context - high tax pressure, energy costs, and delayed tax refunds are affecting profitability and competitiveness in international markets. They have cited four priority measures: 1) update export refunds; 2) automate VAT refunds; 3) revise outdated employer contribution deductions; and 4) reduce VAT on energy used in production as temporary relief until broader tax reforms occur.
- The groups are also requesting institutional support to bolster global competitiveness, including assistance with participation in international trade fairs and backing for marketing and branding campaigns to enhance the international image of Argentine fruit.

China Suspending Section 301 Tariff Exclusion for U.S. Agricultural Products

- China is expected to suspend the Section 301 tariff exclusion process for certain U.S. imports, including agricultural products, starting August 1, 2025, according to a recent USDA FAS [GAIN report](#).
- Although there has been no formal announcement, Chinese importers using the Ministry of Finance's online platform have reported seeing a pop-up message stating that no new applications will be accepted after August 1, and existing exclusions will be valid only until September 14.
- China's tariff exclusion process began in March 2020, allowing importers to apply for waivers from Section 301 retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods. The USDA report includes a spreadsheet detailing the current tariffs applicable to U.S. agricultural products entering China and total projected tariffs as of September 15 without a Section 301 tariff exclusion.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

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EU Presents Target List for Retaliatory Tariffs on U.S. Goods

- On July 14, 2025, the European Commission presented a second list of retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports valued at €72 billion (\$84 billion) in response to the U.S. “Liberation Day” tariffs. A recent USDA FAS [GAIN report](#) provides an overview of the tariffs and attaches the European Commission paper outlining the list of goods.
- The list includes fresh cherries.
- The list must be approved by EU Member States, and modifications are possible before the final vote and publication in the EU Official Journal.
- Meanwhile, the first list of EU retaliatory tariffs announced in March (related to Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs) has been postponed again, and are now suspended until August 6, 2025, per [Implementing Regulation 2025/1146](#) (BCI Monitor 3-18-25).
- If both the first and second tariff lists are enacted together, over 85% of U.S. agriculture and related exports to the EU would be impacted. EU officials have reportedly emphasized that “all EU trade tools” remain on the table, with a third list of retaliatory tariffs being considered.

China Notifies Amendments to Administrative Rules of Inspection, Quarantine and Supervision on Entry of Fresh Fruit

- On July 22, China [notified the WTO](#) of revisions to the [Administrative Rules of Inspection, Quarantine and Supervision on Entry of Fresh Fruit](#) (in Chinese).
- Based on a machine-translated version of the revised regulation and a comparison with the 2004 rules, the updated measure retains the core framework for fresh fruit imports but introduces stronger provisions in five key areas:
 - Institutional authority – now overseen by the General Administration of Customs (GACC)
 - Biosafety oversight – with added emphasis on environmental and health protection
 - Emergency measures – including the ability to suspend imports in response to pest or disease outbreaks
 - Cross-border controls – particularly for transshipments through Hong Kong and Macau
 - Pre-inspection authorization – allowing Chinese officials to inspect production and packaging sites in the country of origin
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Enquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is September 20, 2025.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

South Korea Notifies Proposed Amendments to Regulation on Inspection of Imported Food

- On July 16, South Korea’s Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) [notified the WTO](#) regarding [Administrative Notice No. 2025-289](#) (in Korean), which includes proposed amendments to the *Regulation on Declaration and Inspection of Imported Food Products, etc.*
- According to machine translation, the proposed changes aim to streamline product classification and testing procedures, clarify post-management requirements for noncompliant products, and expand the recognition of hygiene certificates from exporting countries.
- The proposal also strengthens follow-up actions for products with prior violations. A professional translation is recommended for a full analysis of the changes.
- According to the WTO notice, the proposed date of adoption and entry into force is August 30, 2025.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Enquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is July 22, 2025.

USTR Opens Investigation into Preferential Brazilian Tariffs

- On July 18, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) [opened an investigation](#) into Brazil's use of, among other items, unfair, preferential tariffs.
- As part of its investigation, the USTR is seeking comments from stakeholders on the following:
 - The acts, policies, or practices of Brazil which accord lower, preferential tariff treatment only to certain large trading partners in specific sectors, including sectors in which these trading partners are globally competitive.
 - The extent to which Brazil's acts, policies, or practices discriminate against or unfairly disadvantage U.S. exports and economic output.
- The comment deadline is August 18, 2025, and can be submitted through the [USTR consultation portal](#).