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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Senators Reintroduce Bill to Amend USDA Specialty Crops Trade Report Requirements

- Senate Finance Committee leaders recently reintroduced the bipartisan Specialty Crops Reporting on Opportunities and Promotion (CROP) Act to amend statutory requirements for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) annual Specialty Crops Trade Issues Report. As outlined in a [summary of the proposal](#), the bill would require more detailed identification of foreign trade barriers and clearer plans to address them.
- The legislation would require the USDA to consult with the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and to detail tariff and non-tariff barriers, such as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, quotas, and labeling requirements, affecting U.S. specialty crop exports. It would also require analysis of whether such barriers fall under existing trade agreements and their impact on U.S. competitiveness.
- The report would need to describe actions taken or planned by the Administration to resolve identified barriers and be made publicly available (with a possible classified annex). The most recent publicly available edition appears to be from 2021, suggesting the proposal could increase transparency and visibility.
- The bill would also require input from the public and the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee (ATAC) for Trade in Fruits and Vegetables, potentially creating new engagement opportunities for specialty crop stakeholders. Support has been voiced by groups including the Northwest Horticultural Council.

EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement to be Implemented on Provisional Basis

- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen recently [announced](#) it will implement the [EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement](#) on a provisional basis, following its signature in January (*BCI Monitor 1-13-26*).
- Article 23.3 of the Agreement allows for provisional application once the EU and one or more Mercosur members (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) complete their respective internal procedures. Argentina and Uruguay have ratified the deal, confirming they will request provisional application from the EU. This may take place on the first day of the second month following the date on which the respective signatories have notified each other to confirm their agreement to apply the Agreement on a provisional basis.
- According to the tariff reduction schedule, both the EU and Mercosur members that have ratified the agreement will immediately eliminate their tariffs on fresh sweet cherries upon provisional entry into force.

**A REPORT FOR
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CHERRY BOARD**

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APHIS Publishes Dates for Upcoming Plant Bilateral Meetings

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) updated information on its Plant Health Technical Bilateral Meetings [webpage](#), including the following:
- U.S. - Netherlands Plant Health Bilateral Meeting, April 22, 2026: (in-person; Washington DC) Contact Lakshmanan Ramamoorthi for details, ppq.pim.requestsmanagement@usda.gov
- U.S. - Korea Plant Health Bilateral Meeting, Week of April 27, 2026: (in-person; Visalia, California). Contact Lisa Kohl for details, ppq.pim.requestsmanagement@usda.gov.
- U.S.- Mexico Plant Health Bilateral Meeting, Week of May 11, 2026 (in-person; Mexico). Contact Jason Neil for details, ppq.pim.requestsmanagement@usda.gov.

