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**SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CPAB:**

**AMS Announces Invitations to Buy Fresh Pears and Canned Mixed Fruit**

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) recently invited offers to sell 10,800 cases of fresh D'Anjou pears and 900 cases of fresh Bosc pears. The purchases will be distributed to child nutrition and other domestic assistance programs from November 15, 2010 to March 9, 2011.
- Offers are due by June 21, 2010. For more information, please see: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5084780>.
- AMS also recently announced an invitation to buy a minimum of 596,160 cases to a maximum of 626,940 cases of #300 canned mixed fruit for delivery from September 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.
- Offers are due by June 18, 2010. For more information, please see: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5084737>.

**EPA Receives Petition Proposing the Use of Pyraflufen-ethyl on Pears**

- On June 9, the EPA issued a notice of recently received petitions for the registrations of new pesticide products containing currently registered active ingredients.
- One applicant proposed the registration of a pesticide product containing the active ingredient pyraflufen-ethyl for use on pome fruit (Crop Group 11) and several other commodities.
- Pyraflufen-ethyl is not currently registered for use on pome fruit.
- Comments are due by July 9, 2010. For more information or to submit a comment, please see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-13688.pdf>.

**EFSA Reviews MRL for Methidathion on Pome Fruit**

- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) recently published the results of its review of the existing EU maximum residue levels (MRL) for methidathion on certain commodities.
- Methidathion is no longer authorized for use in the European Union (EU). Member state Portugal recently requested the deletion of MRLs for citrus, pome fruit, and sunflower seeds due to chronic intake concerns. To determine the validity of this request, EFSA performed a review of the existing MRLs for these and other commodities.
- The existing EU MRL for pome fruit was found to be sufficiently supported by data. However, EFSA determined that a new MRL of 0.03 parts per million (ppm) would be more appropriate for this pesticide/commodity combination. This would be more restrictive than the current EU MRL for methidathion on pome fruit (including pears) of 0.05 ppm, which is equivalent to the U.S. MRL.
- For more information, please see: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1639.htm>.

**Global Pear Industry Members Meet at Interpera 2010**

- Over 180 delegates took part in the third meeting of Interpera, the international pear convention held in Ferraro, Italy on May 27-28. The two-day event gave pear industry members the opportunity to discuss worldwide production, sales, financial and production trends, and provided a forum for the extensive analysis of the pear industry in each global region. *(Continued)*

*(Global Pear Industry Members Meet at Interpera 2010 continued)*

- Asia, Europe, and the U.S. are the major pear producing regions, with China producing the greatest volume of pears of any single nation in 2009 at 13 million metric tons (MT), or about 60% of total worldwide production. Most Chinese pears are sold on the local market, but export volumes continue to increase, reaching 400,000 MT in 2009. The growth of the Chinese pear industry is expected to continue in the next few years.
- In comparison, total production in North America and the EU reached 800,000 MT and 2.3 million MT respectively in 2009. Italy and Spain are the largest European pear producers, while the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg) are the largest exporters in terms of volume.
- With the exception of the European varieties Conference, William B.C., and Abate Fetal, there have been few new pear varieties introduced in recent years.
- Despite continued worldwide consumption of pears, overall retail sales have been in decline since 2000 with some notable exceptions. While pear consumption in Asian markets such as China and Russia continue to increase, consumption in the EU declined by as much as 11% per person last year.

#### **GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CPAB:**

##### **Taiwan Cites Pesticide Residue Violations on U.S. Commodity Shipments**

- Over the course of the last week, a U.S. commodity group exporting to Taiwan has had a handful of pesticide residue violations in Taiwan. In all cases, the residues were well within the U.S. maximum residue level (MRL), but either did not have a corresponding Taiwan MRL or exceeded the Taiwanese standard.
- Taiwan has a limited number of MRLs compared to the U.S., and all U.S. commodity groups face potential MRL-related issues when exporting to Taiwan.
- Taiwan does not defer to Codex levels.
- The U.S. government is engaging the Taiwanese government on these violations to minimize the potential impact on additional shipments. The result of these violations is likely to raise the profile of Taiwan MRL regulations in the near future. Several violations in early 2009 elevated talks on these issues between the two governments.

##### **APEC Ministers Call for Greater Trade Liberalization in the Asia-Pacific Region**

- Trade ministers from the Asia-Pacific region met on June 5-6 in Sapporo, Japan at the biannual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to promote open trade and increased economic cooperation among the 21 member economies. The ministers reinforced the commitment to greater liberalization of trade, and called for a regional growth strategy to provide guidelines for continued economic integration.
- As the forum chair for 2010, Japan stimulated discussion about a region-wide free trade zone. Japan has previously indicated that it will actively seek to create and implement a Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific region (or FTAAP) by 2020. In light of this goal, Japanese trade minister Masayuki Naoshima briefed APEC members on the progress of free trade talks with other major Asian economies, including China and South Korea. (The three nations recently launched a joint study on the plausible outcomes of a trilateral FTA).
- The ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to a successful conclusion of the ongoing negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda.
- APEC ministers will issue a joint annual statement on the progress of these goals at their summit in November.

##### **Trade Ministers Discuss Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement Ahead of Second Negotiating Round**

- Ministers from the eight countries participating in negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP: the U.S., New Zealand, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam) met on the sidelines of the APEC Trade Ministers meeting in Sapporo to exchange views and discuss goals for the second round of TPP negotiations to be held next week in San Francisco.
- The ministers established goals to be met in the areas of regulatory coherence, regional integration and competitiveness, the increased involvement of small and medium enterprises, and government-to-government transparency. Additionally, the ministers sought to develop a consensus on the relationship between the TPP and existing FTAs among member states (including the FTAs the U.S. currently has with Australia, Chile, Peru, and Singapore).
- The ministers underscored the importance of establishing common goals and policies by carefully considering input from each participating country. Finally, the ministers considered the question of participation by additional nations, and sought to establish guidelines and objectives for countries expressing an interest in joining the TPP negotiations. The participation of Vietnam as a full-fledged TPP member is still uncertain at this point, and it remains to be seen if the rest of the TPP countries will implement a timeline for a Vietnamese decision to join.
- In preparation of the second TPP negotiating round, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced that USTR chief negotiator for the TPP Barbara Weisel and her team will respond to public comments and questions regarding the ongoing TPP negotiations. To submit a comment, please see: <http://www.ustr.gov/tpp/comment>.