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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CPAB:

FAS Issues Report On Fresh Deciduous Fruit Market in Turkey

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) recently published a report concerning Turkey's fresh deciduous fruit market, which included updates on pear production and trade.
- Pear production grew to 376,000 metric tons (MT) in marketing year (MY) 2009, an increase of 4 percent from the previous year. About 90 percent of Turkish fresh pears are consumed domestically, with about 5 percent exported, 3 percent canned, and the remainder unsuitable for use.
- Turkish exports of fresh pears more than doubled from MY 2008, reaching 12,300 MT in MY 2009. This dramatic increase in exports was primarily due to the opening of the Iranian market to Turkish deciduous fruit. Turkish imports of fresh pears in MY 2009 remained stable at approximately 300 MT.
- To view the report in full, please see:
http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/FRESH%20DECIDUOUS%20FRUIT%20ANNUAL_Ankara_Turkey_12-30-2009.pdf.

Australian Production of Fresh Pears to Decrease by 16 Percent in CY 2010

- FAS also recently published a report covering Australia's pear industry.
- Australian production for calendar year (CY) 2010 is expected to fall to 105,000 MT, a 16% decrease from the previous year's revised production estimate of 125,000 MT. Poor pollination, ongoing drought, and a lack of irrigated water have caused the Australian pear industry to steadily contract since 2000/01.
- As a result of both lower production and a higher Australian dollar, imports of fresh pears are expected to sharply increase to 2,300 MT in CY 2010. Australian exports of pears in CY 2010 will fall to an estimated 5,000 MT, down from 6,300 MT in the previous year. U.S. pears are currently prohibited in Australia due to fireblight.
- To view the report in full, please see:
http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Report%202009_Canberra_Australia_12-29-2009.pdf.

EU Offers Online Resources about Russian Pesticide Requirements

- The European Commission recently announced the availability of several online documents offering an overview of Russia's maximum residue levels (MRLs) for certain commodities.
- The unofficial documents, prepared by agricultural industry association Freshfel, list Russian MRLs for approximately 440 pesticides on 15 common agricultural exports, including pears.
- For an overview of Russian MRLs on crops produced in the EU, please see:
<http://www.freshquality.org/files/20100105%20-%20MRLs%20applicable%20to%20EU%20produce%20exports%20to%20Russia.xls>.
- For crops produced outside the EU, please see:
<http://www.freshquality.org/files/20100105%20-%20MRLs%20applicable%20to%20non-EU%20produce%20exports%20to%20Russia.xls>.
- For an unofficial list of consolidated Russian MRLs applicable to EU exports, please see:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/international/trade/docs/20090911_consolidated_version_russian_mrls.xls.



**A Report for the
California Pear
Advisory Board**

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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CPAB:**Venezuela Implements Dual Exchange Rate for U.S. Products**

- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has implemented a new exchange rate system that sets two separate rates depending on the type of product being purchased.
- The rate for food, health items, and other “essential” items has been revised from 2.15 Bolivars per dollar to 2.60 Bolivars per dollar. Beverages, appliances, chemicals, and other sectors will have an “oil dollar” rate of 4.30 Bolivars per dollar. Venezuela is also initiating funds to improve its domestic economy, including a program to promote import substitution.
- A recent FAS report on this issue is available at:
http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Venezuela%20Implements%20Devaluation_Caracas_Venezuela_1-11-2010.pdf.

Taiwan Food and Drug Administration Formed

- As of January 1, Taiwanese agencies under the Department of Health (DOH) with responsibilities related to food and drug safety have been combined as the new Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA). The new agency is responsible for forming food policy and regulations, conducting inspections, registering foods, conducting risk assessments, and other similar functions.
- Legislation approving TFDA was passed in May 2009. The major impetus for establishing a single food safety authority was the importation of Chinese products containing high levels of melamine. The four agencies that were eliminated due to the formation of TFDA include the Bureau of Food Sanitation, the Bureau of Pharmaceutical Affairs, the National Laboratories of Foods and Drugs, and the National Bureau of Controlled Drugs.
- The new TFDA intends to hire 100 new inspectors for port-of-entry inspections. The Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection (BSMI) is currently responsible for inspections and will gradually transition this responsibility to TFDA.

USTR Seeks Comments on Protection of Intellectual Property Rights Abroad

- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) published an announcement regarding a public hearing to receive comments on protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) in foreign markets. The hearing and request for comments are intended to help USTR conduct its Special 301 review, which involves compiling a list of countries that have serious IPR issues. U.S. officials focus on priority countries in the list to try to improve IPR protections.
- USTR is accepting comments on any policies or practices of trading partners that impact IPR, and comments should include a description of the problem and its impact on the U.S.
- Written comments from stakeholders may be submitted until February 16. The hearing will be held beginning March 3. For additional information, please see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-620.pdf>.

ITC to Submit Report on Probable Effects of Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement

- The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) recently announced that it will initiate an investigative report concerning the probable effects of the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) on U.S. industries. The report will investigate the likely economic effects of the duty-free imports from TPP member states on domestic producers of similar products.
- The TPP is a regional Asia-Pacific free trade agreement (FTA) which already counts Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, and Singapore as members. The first round of negotiations to expand the TPP will include Australia, Peru, the U.S. and Vietnam, and is expected to take place in March 2010. The U.S. already has bilateral FTAs with Chile, Singapore, Australia, and Peru.
- ITC’s confidential report will be submitted to USTR by June 2. ITC will hold a public hearing in regard to the TPP investigation and report on March 2. All interested parties must submit their request to appear at the hearing by February 16. Written submissions are due on March 23. For more information, please see:
http://www.usitc.gov/press_room/news_release/2010/er0111hh1.htm.

U.S. Releases 2008 Results of Pesticide Data Program

- On January 11, USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) released its annual Pesticide Data Program (PDP) Summary Report for 2008. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of pesticide residues found in or on U.S. food products.
- In 2008, surveys from 12 participating states examined approximately 13,400 agricultural products, including fresh and processed fruit and vegetables, almonds, honey, catfish, corn grain, rice, groundwater, and treated and untreated drinking water. For the agricultural products, total residue detection (the number of residues detected divided by the number of analyses per commodity) was 1.6 percent.
- To view the AMS’s Pesticide Data Program results for 2008 in full, please see:
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5081750>.