

International Agribusiness Center

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GAINS Reports

Organic Trade Expansion Expected Under US Taiwan Organic Equivalency Arrangement – [link](#)

Taiwan is the fifth largest export market for U.S. organic products, reaching over \$90 million in sales in 2019. Thanks to the May 2020 equivalence arrangement between U.S. and Taiwan, U.S. organic sales in Taiwan are forecast to grow by almost 50 percent between 2020 to 2025.

Taiwan Reinforces Health Claim Regulations – [link](#)

The Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) recently strengthened the enforcement of food labeling requirements for health claims. If food labels containing a health claim are not registered and approved, TFDA may impose a fine between US\$1,300 and US\$180,000 for misleading consumers. U.S. exporters of products making health claims need to be vigilant with packaging and advertising material to ensure compliance.

Specialty Foods Magazine

FDA, OSHA Offer COVID Safety Checklist – [link](#)

The FDA and OSHA have developed a checklist to help the food industry stay safe during COVID-19. The Employee Health and Food Safety Checklist for Human and Animal Food Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic pulls from existing guidance provided by the FDA, CDC, and OSHA and serves as a quick reference to help assess employee health, social distancing, and food safety within workplaces.

The checklist is broken into two sections. The first focuses on employee health, screening, and operation configuration for social distancing to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 based on guidelines provided by CDC and OSHA. The second highlights food safety requirements, found in existing regulations, that can help the food industry assess the potential impact of COVID-19-related operational changes on food safety practices

Cheese Makers, Retailers Look to Alternative Sampling Methods – [link](#)

Cheese makers and retailers are seeking alternative ways for customers to sample cheese amid the COVID-19 pandemic, reports *Supermarket Perimeter*. A few retailers like Costco, have returned to offering in-store samples, but the majority aren't ready to resume in-store sampling anytime soon, even though sampling is a key tactic to encourage consumers to try new products.

Fairfield, N.J.-based Schuman Cheese has been working with retail partners to offer virtual demos, in addition to planning a display area in-store that features Schuman's available cheeses along with signage and QR codes where customers can go to learn more about the cheese and ask questions. Saputo Cheese, out of Montreal, is working with retailers to reach customers when they come for curbside pickup. The cheesemaker is giving grocers educational cards that include a coupon and a recipe to include in customers' orders.



Foodservice Industry May Lose \$300 Billion – [link](#)

The foodservice industry could lose anywhere from \$250 billion to almost \$300 billion in sales in 2020 compared to 2019, according to research from Technomic. While quick-service is among the segments performing best in the industry, full-service restaurants and bars are struggling. Technomic predicts that the success of the industry will be tied directly to medical advances related to COVID-19, such as a vaccine or advanced therapies, as well as an economic recovery.

Food Processing Magazine

USDA Proposes Tighter Organic Standards – [link](#)

Requirements for organic food & beverage products would be tightened up and fraud detection strengthened under regulatory changes now being considered by USDA. The proposed regulations, released Aug. 5, “are intended to protect integrity in the organic supply chain and build consumer and industry trust in the USDA organic label,” according to a USDA news release. They would accomplish this by establishing or improving organic control systems, traceability and regulatory enforcement.

Areas to be addressed include: import certificates; recordkeeping and product traceability; qualifications and training for certifying agents; oversight of certification activities; conformity of foreign assessment systems; certification of grower group operations, and more.

How U.S. Manufacturing Companies Are Reassessing China – [link](#)

In June, after a large number of companies in China had resumed operations, East West Associates conducted a survey of more than 150 Western companies with operations in China to see if their strategies for manufacturing, contract manufacturing and sourcing there had changed.

The topline points of East West Associates' survey:

- 95% of the companies have been confronted with an unprecedented changed economic environment, due to the disruption of both the domestic and global markets.
- 91% indicated they were facing multiple challenges simultaneously, in particular decreases in demand and disruptions of operations.
- 92% said they have taken action to restore stability and recover.
- 77% indicated that they have taken multiple domestic and global actions simultaneously.

In all, 85% of the companies have changed their company business planning due to the pandemic, but they are planning in two very different directions: 39% with an increased focus on improving operations in China and 46% with an increased focus on relocating operations out of China (the other 15% said it's either too early to tell).

The Weekly China Skinny

China inflation rose 2.7 per cent in July, driven by higher food costs – [link](#)

China's food prices rose 13.2% in the year to July, with pork up 87.5%, not helped by floods and disrupted agricultural production.

Disclaimer: This list is by no means complete, for more information please refer to the links above.