

International Agribusiness Center

Weekly Country Report, January 11-15, 2021

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USDA/Global Agricultural Information Network Reports

EU-UK Trade Agreement - Potential Impacts of Rules of Origin – [link](#)

At 2300 local time on December 31, 2020, the United Kingdom (UK) completed its departure from the European Union (EU). The two sides successfully negotiated and agreed that there are no tariffs or tariff free quotas on each other's goods. However, England, Wales, and Scotland's departure from the EU's customs union and single market introduces some changes that could affect business operations, such as Rules of Origin, that will affect the movement of some third country goods.

COVID-19 Hampers 2020 US High Quality Beef Quota Exports to the EU - [link](#)

The first full year of the newly negotiated U.S. specific High Quality Beef (HQB) quota with the European Union ended with U.S. beef exports reaching 12,806 MT. With a total of 18,500 MT reserved for U.S. beef for 2020, this leaves 5,694 MT of quota unused in 2020. This is the result of the high focus of U.S. beef sales to the European restaurant sector, which was mostly shut down in both the spring first wave and the autumn second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because the HQB quota year stretches from July 1 through June 30, 2,470.5 MT of the unused quota will be carried over to the next quarter of the U.S. specific quota. Under the new Agreement, the U.S. specific HQB quota for 2021 increased to 23,000 MT.

Lot Code Packaging Requirement Enforcement Begins January 15 – [link](#)

On January 15, 2021 enforcement of lot code requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables will begin, following a one-year extension provided to industry to use up existing packaging. Under Canada's Safe Food for Canadians Regulations, most prepackaged product must have a lot code or unique identifier on the label.

COVID-19 in India - Weekly Port Situation Update – [link](#)

Japanese Government Supports Freezing Imported Beef Prior to Customs Clearance - [link](#)

On January 1, the Government of Japan introduced a new payment scheme for Japanese importers to postpone customs clearance of imported chilled beef between January 1 and June 30. This announcement comes as U.S. beef imports move closer to tripping a safeguard established under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement. If imports surpass the safeguard trigger level, tariffs on U.S. beef would temporarily increase from 25.8 to 38.5 percent.

EU Pork Exports Reached Record Levels in 2020 – [link](#)

During the first ten months of 2020, the European Union (EU) exceeded the pork export volume for all of 2019 (setting a new record for exports). EU pork exports rose based on strong demand from China and sustained production despite the transport, slaughter, and export restrictions during the coronavirus crisis and the emergence of new African Swine Fever detections.



Specialty Foods Magazine

Pandemic Trends Carry into 2021: E-Commerce Impacts Specialty - [link](#)

Consumers' increasing reliance on e-commerce creates new opportunities for specialty food makers, says Bill Bishop, chief architect at Barrington, Illinois-based e-commerce consulting firm Brick Meets Click. One prime opportunity for specialty food companies, he says, is the expanded space for product descriptions provided online, which allows makers to offer more details about how their products are, in fact, special.

Freight Forwarders

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Los Angeles / Long Beach vessel terminal and the Canadian terminal are experiencing congestion due to the spike in import volumes; this is expected through February 2021, as well as large inventories of empty containers. Labor shortages are still affecting terminal times