

ABC Global Update

Export Shipments Recover Some

After being down 20% during the first three months, monthly exports for November are down 2% from November last year. Domestic shipments for November are also down but YTD still holding at -5%.

	Million Lbs. Aug 2015- Nov 2015	% Change from Last Year
W. Europe	140,975,808	-10%
Spain	50,381,513	22%
Germany	28,788,383	-37%
Italy	16,316,384	15%
Netherlands	11,350,472	-36%
UK	8,580,037	3%
Belgium	6,224,046	-13%
France	5,974,791	-10%
Central/E. Europe	4,662,000	-39%
Asia-Pacific	165,357,555	-13%
India	60,867,285	-1%
China	52,545,316	-18%
Japan	20,472,609	8%
S. Korea	12,428,502	-26%
Vietnam	8,961,390	-39%
Middle East	30,583,570	-41%
UAE	11,984,134	-59%
Turkey	10,034,566	-34%
Total Exports	368,369,261	-16%

EFSA Publishes Conclusion on Pesticide Risk Assessment for Glyphosate

On November 12, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) **published** a conclusion on the pesticide risk assessment for glyphosate. Glyphosate (RoundUp) is widely used for weed control in almonds.

Glyphosate was evaluated as required by European Commission (EC) legislation for renewed approval, and also following an EC mandate considering findings from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) stating that glyphosate is potentially carcinogenic.

After assessing the relevant data, EFSA concluded that the toxicity of glyphosate needs to be redefined. An acute reference dose (ARfD) of 0.5 mg/kg of body weight has therefore been proposed, the first time such a safety measure has been introduced for glyphosate. EFSA will use this ARfD during its review of glyphosate maximum residue levels (MRLs), which will be carried out in cooperation with member states in 2016.

Regarding potential carcinogenicity of glyphosate, or glyphosate-containing plant protection products, EFSA concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans and the evidence does not support classification with regard to its carcinogenic potential.

EFSA published additional articles further explaining the **risk assessment** and **carcinogenicity assessment** of glyphosate.

U.S. EPA Proposes Revocation of Food Uses of Chlorpyrifos

On October 30, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) **announced** its proposal to revoke all of the food tolerances of chlorpyrifos. One week later, on November 6, the proposal was **published** in the *Federal Register*.

According to an EPA estimate, more than 40,000 crop producing farms currently use the insecticide to control a wide range of pests. Chlorpyrifos is still commonly used for a range of pests in almonds and is critical for control of leaf footed bug. EPA's proposal to revoke the tolerances was in response to a lawsuit and is based on concerns about levels in drinking water as calculated in the draft risk assessment.

According to the *Federal Register* notice, comments on this proposal will be accepted until January 5, 2016, though EPA may grant a 30 day extension to the comment period. The EPA is aiming to publish a final rule on which chlorpyrifos food uses to revoke by December 2016.

In addition, EPA will be releasing an assessment of chlorpyrifos and all listed endangered species in April, 2016.

And not to be outdone, CDPR will be releasing its own risk assessment in December 2015...

Labeling in India – Still a Question

Recent discussions with USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) office indicate that labeling concerns with India are still unresolved, and in fact may even be a bit more complicated.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has confirmed that requirements to include the importer FSSAI license number and FSSAI logo, which had been delayed several times, will go into effect December 31, 2015. All

importers are required to be licensed by the FSSAI to carry out their operations – the FSSAI license **does not** replace the requirement for an Import permit.

Concerns regarding the need to include importer details *on the actual sack or carton* have been raised for more than two years. Indian officials do not believe these requirements have caused any trade issues or delays, particularly since the name and address of the importer, FSSAI logo and license number may be “rectified” – in other words, the information can be added to the container (package or bag) after the goods arrive in India.

ABC is continuing to press US government officials about these concerns. This issue will also be discussed during the ABC Almond Conference in Sacramento. For more information, please contact Julie Adams, at 209.343.3238 or jadams@almondboard.com.

U.S. ITC Seeks Input on Impact of Trans-Pacific Partnership

With the conclusion of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is seeking input relating to the impact that the TPP will have on the U.S. economy. A public hearing is being convened for all interested parties on January 13, 2016, according to a November 20th [notice](#) published in the *Federal Register*.

As required by the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (also known as “trade promotion authority” or “fast track” act), the ITC must produce a report assessing the effect of the TPP on the U.S. economy as a whole, as well as its impact on specific sectors and consumers. The ITC must submit this report to President Barack Obama and the

U.S. Congress no later than 105 days after the President signs the agreement. The President can sign the agreement no less than 90 days following the release of the text for Congressional and public review, which occurred on November 5, 2015.

The deadline for filing requests to participate in the public hearing is December 22, 2015. The notice also identifies May 18, 2016 as the anticipated date for submitting the ITC’s report to the President and Congress.

USDA ERS Publishes Reports Examining Agricultural Trade between the U.S. and EU

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS) recently published two reports examining the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) currently being negotiated between the U.S. and EU and its potential effects on agricultural exports.

The first [report](#) focuses on specific sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and technical barriers to trade (TBT) currently affecting U.S. agricultural exports to the EU. Notably, the findings in the report indicate that many of the non-tariff measures (NTMs) applied in the EU are in fact more trade restrictive to U.S. products than the actual tariffs applied on those products.

The second [report](#) focuses on different scenarios for U.S. agricultural exports depending on the outcome of the TTIP negotiations. According to the study, the removal of the non-tariff measures in the EU would result in \$4.1 billion worth of additional gains for U.S. agricultural exports.

The USDA ERS analysis coincides with the emergence of non-tariff

measures as a major topic in the TTIP negotiations, which began in 2013. Approximately half of the world’s gross domestic product (GDP) is accounted for by the U.S. and the EU, with trade between the two surpassing \$550 billion in 2014.

Almond Conference will be a Record-Setter!

The Almond Conference will be held Tuesday, December 8 through Thursday, December 10, 2015 at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, CA. This year’s meeting is anticipated to be the largest to date!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Special Note

ABC offices will close Thursday, December 24, 2015 and reopen Monday, January 4, 2016.

From all of us to all of you, a joyous holiday season!

