

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

TH0061 – In this month’s newsletter learn about efforts to expand seed potatoes access in Thailand, DLD’s plans for plant audits for day-old poultry, boar semen and bovine semen facilities, as well as information on upcoming events.

General Information:

HOT NEWS

FAS/Bangkok to be Closed for Songkran Festival

The Office of Agricultural Affairs will be closed from April 13 to April 16 in observance of Songkran Festival. Business will resume on April 18, 2010.

MARKET ACCESS UPDATE

Seeking Additional State Eligibility for U.S. Seed Potatoes

APHIS has invited Thai Department of Agriculture to visit Wisconsin, New York, Maine, and Colorado to audit systems for seed potato production. Arrangements for the visits have yet to be finalized. Currently, the only eligible states to export seed potatoes are California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Thailand Sets Deadline for Restrictive Audits on Animal Products

On March 16, the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) notified APHIS/Bangkok that U.S. establishments that intend to continue shipping day-old poultry, boar semen and bovine semen to Thailand must be audited by October 16, 2010. DLD has set a grace period (April 15 - October 15, 2010). Stakeholders interested in continuing their exports must send a letter of invitation letter that includes a tentative program for on-site inspection of their establishments.

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

DVC Product Presentations

FAS/Bangkok can help facilitate digital video conference with Thai importers. Please contact us for more information at agbangkok@fas.usda.gov.

Thai Airways Opens Bidding for Economy Class Vintage Red & White Wine

Thai Airways extends an invitation to all interested suppliers of red and white wines to submit offers for their economy class passenger service. Interested suppliers can download bidding information from Thai Airways website:
<http://www1.thaiairways.com/procurement/supplier/home.jsp>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Food and Hotel Asia 2010

Mark your calendar for the largest food shows in Southeast Asia, Food and Hotel Asia

2010, will take place in Singapore on April 20-23. The show expects to attract 2,800 exhibitors from 70 countries. The USA pavilion will showcase AJC International, American Indian Foods, American Roland Food Corporation, Ames International, Big Train, California Milk Advisory Board, Carmi Flavors, Excel Trade, Florida's Natural Growers, Food Export Midwest, French Gourmet, Geller International, General Mills, Global Export, Gold Medal, Good Life Foods, Gray & Co., Guittard Chocolate, Independent Meat, Lamb Weston, Langer Juice, McIlhenny Company, Midamar Corporation, Mission Foods, Mocafe, Nautical Growth, Neil Jones Food Company, Otis Spunkmeyer, Popcorn Board, Rembrandt Foods, Reynolds, Robert Rothchild Farms, Sanfilippo & Son, Scheidegger, Southern U.S. Trade Association, Taylor Bros. Farms, Trans USA, USA Poultry & Egg Export Council, U.S. Dairy Export Council, U.S. Meat Export Federation, and the Western U.S. Trade Association. Additional information on this show please visit www.foodnhotelasia.com.

WUSATA Outbound Trade Mission to Bangkok Thailand

The Idaho and Washington State Departments of Agriculture, in cooperation with WUSATA will organize an outbound trade mission to Bangkok, Thailand during April 25-28 following Food and Hotel Asia, Singapore. U.S. companies will meet one on one with importers, showcase their products, develop contacts, identify market opportunities and gain first-hand knowledge of the Thai market. FAS/Bangkok will set up individual meetings with key buyers, importers and distributors of food and retail services. Companies interested in participating may contact Amanda Albers, Trade Specialist, Idaho State Department of Agriculture at amanda.albers@agri-idaho.gov.

US Grains Council to Conduct Outreach

On April 26-30, Dr. Budi Tangendjaja, Technical Director of the US Grains Council, will conduct outreach activities to promote the use of distilled dried grains with soluble (DDGS). Dr. Tangendjaja will target the major feed mills and swine operations throughout Thailand.

2010 Shipping and Supply Chain Conference

On April 28-30, American Soybean Association International Marketing (ASA-IM) and the US Grains Council will host the 4th SE Asia Grain Transportation Conference: "Shipping and Supply Chain in the Next Decade" at the St. Regis, Singapore. This conference will focus on the changing landscape and outlook of the international trade and ocean transport of agricultural products. For more details, please visit <http://www.grainshipper.com>.

U.S. Wine and More Seminars

During May 17-21, FAS/Bangkok is coordinating a series of marketing events bringing together Thai wine importers, California and Washington State wine producers, and the California Milk Advisory Board to promote U.S. wines and cheeses to the Thai hospitality industry. The events will take place in Phuket and Bangkok. For more information please contact agbangkok@fas.usda.gov.

2010 ASEAN Meat Buyer Team to USA

On May 20-28, Pan Food Company and Jagota Brothers Trading, two Thai leading meat importers, will participate in the 2010 ASEAN Meat Buyer Team organized by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). In addition to meeting U.S. meat producers and exporters, the participants will tour slaughter and production facilities and attend the annual USMEF Board of Directors meeting in St. Louis. More information about U.S. Meat Export Federation is available at www.usmef.org.

Taste of America Promotion by Villa Market

During the month of June, Villa Market, one of Thailand's leading supermarkets, along with Food Export USA will hold a promotional event, "Taste of America", at their 18 retail outlets in Bangkok, Phuket, Hua Hin, and Pattaya. The promotion will highlight new food products from the US. Additional information about Villa Market is available at www.villamarket.com.

Aquaculture Feed Workshop Postponed to August

The first-ever Southeast Asia Aquaculture Conference, sponsored by American Soybean Association International Marketing, to be held on March 22-25 has been rescheduled for August 2-5, 2010. Information on this event can be obtained at <http://www.asasea.com>.