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Report Highlights:

TH9120 This month's newsletter provides the latest information on the Thai agricultural situation and U.S. export opportunities, including H1N1 disruptions for U.S. pork and pork products, USDA/ARS cooperation with the Thai Government, background on the South East Asia Agricultural Cooperators Conference, and the AHEC press mission to the U.S. See also the latest word on upcoming events.

HOT NEWS FROM THAILAND

The Office of Agricultural Affairs welcomes our new Agricultural Attaché, Orestes Vasquez. Orestes succeeds Corey Pickelsimer, who has returned to Washington, DC. Welcome Orestes!

MARKET ACCESS UPDATE

H1N1 Disrupts Imports of U.S. Pork and Pork Products

Although the Thai Department of Livestock Development (DLD) lifted its import ban on U.S. pork, pork products, and swine genetics regarding 2009 Influenza H1N1 outbreak on May 20, 2009, all shipments remain subject to additional import conditions, including a certification statement that the shipment is swine influenza-free. Shipments are also being held on arrival pending laboratory testing. U.S. pork skin and swine genetics continue to be disrupted.

USDA/ARS Cooperation with the Thai Government

Animal Health experts from the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will be in Thailand September 14-15 to promote regional collaboration with Thai animal health research institutions on influenza research and other areas of mutual interest.

South East Asia Agricultural Cooperators Conference

The American Soybean Association International Marketing (ASA-IM) and the U.S. Grains Council (USGC) are organizing the 6th SE Asia US Agricultural Cooperators Conference in Cebu Philippines September 6-9, 2009. The conference brings together agricultural and livestock industries from across the region. Details and updates on conference are available on the conference website at www.sea-agconference.com.

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

Organic Trade Show Follow-Up

Congratulations to the American European Company who attended the Organic Trade Show in June 2009. They have gone on to source a variety of U.S. seeds for sprouting as well as a number of whole grain items for the Thai market.

Fresh Produce Buying Mission to the US

The Western United States Agricultural Trade Association is organizing a fresh produce buying mission for Thai and Vietnamese fruit importers to meet with the U.S. produce suppliers in

Washington State, Idaho, and California. The mission is slated for August 23-29, 2009. Confirmed Thai companies include Vachamon Food Co. Ltd., Cititex Enterprises Co., Ltd., and Interfresh Co., Ltd. For more information about the mission, please contact: Rebecca J. Weber, International Marketing Trade Specialist at rweber@agr.wa.gov.

Northwest Horticultural Council Rep to Visit Thailand

Mark Powers, Vice President of Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC) will visit Thailand August 27-28, 2009 to meet with major fruit importers, retailers, and relevant government agencies. Additional information about the Northwest Horticultural Council can be found at www.nwhort.org.

AHEC Press Mission to the U.S.

American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) has invited Daybeds Magazine, one of Thailand's best-selling publications on furniture and interior design, to participate in its Press and Architectural Mission October 2-12, 2009. The program will take seven journalists from Asian countries to visits forests, mills and prominent architectural and interior sites in New York, Rhode Island School of Design, and Boston. The project is an important next step under our joint project to promote U.S. hardwood use in the Thai furniture industry and builds on the success of the American Hardwood Design Camp in Thailand early this year.

Looking for U.S. Manufacturers

A Thai importer is looking for U.S. manufacturers of essential oils, natural extracts from plants, flavors, and fragrances for bulk shipments. If interested, please contact Ms. Worapan Hoontrakool, Asst. Project Manager, Thai-China Flavors and Fragrances Industry Co., Ltd., 99 Moo 2, Lat BuaLuang, Phra Nakhon Si Ayuthaya 13230. Tel. 66-035-379-211/3, Fax. 66-035-379-504/5, Mobile: 66-89-810-0843, Email: worapan@tcff-thailand.com or worapan1627@hotmail.com.

DVC Product Presentations

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

U.S. Beef, Seafood, and Wine Seminar

FAS/Bangkok, the U.S. Meat Export Federation, and importers of U.S. seafood and wines are hosting a U.S. food and wine seminar for chefs and food and beverage managers on August 31 and September 1, 2009 in Bangkok. Jagota Co., Ltd. (seafood), Canpac Beverages Ltd. (Oregon State wines), Great Prestige Co., Ltd. (Washington State wines), the California Wine Co., Ltd. and Vanichwathana Co., Ltd. (California wine) have joined to sponsor the event.

Food and Hotel Thailand 2008

Food & Hotel Thailand 2009 will be held September 2-5 at the Royal Paragon Halls in central Bangkok. The show enjoyed record-breaking success in 2008 when it attracted 22,595 trade participants from 61 countries. USA Poultry & Eggs Export Council, U.S. Meat Export Federation, Belle Joli, Casa Fiesta, Colavita, Lyons, Meridian Nut Grower, and Peter Vella are expected to showcase their products. More information can be found at www.foodhotelthailand.com.

U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association to Host Seminar in September

The U.S. Hide, Skin & Leather Association (USHSLA), FAS/Bangkok, and the Thai Tanning Industry will be hosting a seminar on “Benefits of Using U.S. Hides” on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at the Thai Tanning Industry Association Office. U.S. industry experts will present.

Food Ingredients Asia 2009 (Fi Asia 2009)

This year Food Ingredients Asia will be held in Bangkok September 9-11, 2009. Confirmed U.S. exhibitors are Microthermics, U.S. Dairy Export Council, U.S. Potato Board, and WUSATA (ABC of the Pacific, Advanced Protein Systems, Commercial Creamery, Flavor Consultants, Gold Coast Ingredients, Northwest Naturals, SunOpta Grains and Foods Group). Fi Asia show is a USDA-endorsed show. Any U.S. company interested in participating should contact Sharon Cook at Sharon.cook@fas.usda.gov. Additional information about this show can be found at <http://fiasia.ingredientsnetwork.com/home>.

California Wine Virtual Video Experience

FAS/Bangkok and FAS/Kuala Lumpur are teaming up with the Foreign Commercial Service to provide a virtual wine tasting conference in the near future. The event is intended to bring together wine exporters and potential importers and distributors with the support of CISCO and FedEx. For further information, please contact AgBangkok@fas.usda.gov.