

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Approved By:

Prepared By:

FAS Bangkok Staff

Report Highlights:

TH1100 "SAWASDEE THAILAND" provides the latest information on Thai agricultural situation, market access for U.S. products, and upcoming events.

General Information:

HOT NEWS

Thai Authorities Threaten to Halt Export amidst Rising Pork Prices

The Thai Department of International Trade (DIT) threatened to halt exports of live hogs and pork products due to rapidly escalating domestic prices. Live hog prices increased from 71-77 baht/kg (\$2.39-2.42/kg) in mid July to current prices of 82-83 baht/kg (\$2.76-2.79/kg), which have driven retail prices for lean pork meat from 130 baht/kg (\$4.38/kg) to 150-160 baht/kg (\$5.05-5.39/kg). Trade sources reported that the price increase is mainly attributed to reduced supplies between 20-30 percent of live hogs affected by endemic PRRS diseases.

MARKET ACCESS UPDATE

Outcome of the Codex Discussions on MRLs for Ractopamine Dash U.S. Pork Export Possibilities

At its 34th session in Geneva, Switzerland, July 4-9, 2011, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) failed to adopt the proposed maximum residue limits (MRLs) for ractopamine, a veterinary drug used as a feed additive to increase lean pork and beef production. USDA/FAS/Bangkok and the U.S. pork industry have made repeated requests to the Thai Government to consider setting of MRLs for ractopamine in pork meat, however the Thai authorities have stated that market access is contingent to Codex approval of ractopamine. A study conducted by the U.S. pork industry indicates that this measure costs U.S. pork producers between \$30-40 million in missed market opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional Training Workshop on the Establishment and Assessment of Pesticide Residue Standards and Risk in Bangkok, Thailand

On August 8-12, 2011, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will hold a regional training workshop on the establishment and risk assessment of pesticide residue standards in Bangkok, Thailand. Thirty eight participants from eleven countries will attend this workshop: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, USA, and Vietnam. The purpose of the training is to give the participants the ability to develop science-based MRLs for minor crop use that have export potential in their respective countries.

Thai Government Officials to attend "U.S. Administration on Plant Variety Protection" Under Cochran Fellowship Program

Thai government officials from the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Office of the Department of Agriculture will attend the "U.S. Administration on Plant Variety Protection" Cochran Fellowship

Program from August 20 - September 3, 2011 in the US. The program will showcase the U.S. procedures that provide and promote plant variety protection in order to encourage the development of new varieties for the benefit of society. These procedures are covered under the Plant Patent Act (PPA) and the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA). The Thai officials will also meet with the U.S. private sector officials to learn first-hand how consumers and the agricultural sector benefit from an effective PVPA. The purpose of the training is to help the Thai PVP Office amend their PVP Act so that it provides an effective system that will protect and promote new variety development in Thailand.

Foods of the Midwest and Northeast from Field to Fork - U.S. Product Showcase and Culinary Demonstration

On August 26, the Food Export Association of the Midwest USA and Food Export USA Northeast, along with the Office of Agricultural Affairs will showcase products from the U.S. Midwest and Northeast and a culinary demonstration at the Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit, Bangkok. At the event, Chef Erwin Drechsler, the well reknown Chicago-based executive chef and owner of the award winning American Café and Bar Erwin, will be in charge of putting together and exciting culinary demonstration. More information is available at www.foodexport.org.

Partnership Celebration Between Siam Winery and E&J Gallo Winery

The Office of Agricultural Affairs, Siam Winery, and Gallo Winery will host a trade reception to celebrate a partnership between Siam Winery, a leading Thai winery and importer and E&J Gallo Winery, the well-known U.S. winery. The event will be held at the Ambassador's Residence on September 1, 2011. The market value of imported U.S. wines in Thailand is US\$1.4 million. More information is available at www.siamwinery.com and <http://gallo.com/>.

GE Animal Workshop in Argentina

On September 5-9, 2011 Argentina will host the first international workshop on the "Food and Environmental Safety Assessment of Genetically Engineered (GE) Animals" in Buenos Aires. The workshop is sponsored by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and the United Nations University-program for Biotechnology in Latin American and the Caribbean (UNU-BIOLAC). The objective of the workshop is to educate participants on the food and environmental safety assessment of GE animals, as well as to enhance cooperation and provide capacity building. USDA, under the APEC toolbox, has sponsored two Thai officials to attend the workshop. Additional information can be found at the workshop website: <http://www.agrobiotecnologia.gov.ar/gmanimal2011/>.

Mark Your Calendar for Food and Hotel Thailand

Food and Hotel Thailand will be held during September 13-16, 2011 at Royal Paragon Hall Exhibition and Convention Center. This must-go trade show has been tailored to meet the needs of chefs, food and beverage professionals, hotels groups and caterers, and bakeries that crave to learn about the latest trends in the food and hospitality industry. Last year the show hosted 758 exhibiting companies from 36 countries and attracted 26,037 trade visitors from 62 countries, an increase of almost 2,000 buyers

from 2009. This year the U.S. Potato Board, U.S. Meat Export Federation, and U.S. Poultry and Egg Export Council together with U.S. exporters will showcase a variety of new and existing U.S. products. More information is available at www.foodhotelthailand.com.

Connect USA Event in Chiang Rai

On September 15, in Chiang Rai (the capital of Thailand's Northern Region), the Foreign Agricultural Service and the U.S. Commercial Service in Bangkok will host a half-day seminar highlighting U.S. government sponsored program and resources assist in linking Thai and U.S. business. The seminar will be attended by Thai local businesses, business association, and U.S. companies based in northern Thailand.

The 8th SE Asia US Agricultural Cooperators Conference in Indonesia

American Soybean Association International Marketing (ASA-IM) and the U.S. Grain Council (USGC) are scheduled to conduct the 8th SE Asia US Agricultural Cooperators Conference at the Laguna Resort and Spa, Bali, Indonesia, from September 18-21, 2011. The objective of the event is to update current issues and share valuable perspectives on the direction of the industry. The organizers have invited a panel of prominent speakers consisting of industry leaders, market mavens and senior trade representatives to share their knowledge and expertise and will provide an adequate venue for networking activities. More information on this event can be found at the website: <http://www.sea-agconference.com/>.

Food Defense Activities in Thailand

USDA, in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of State, and U.S. industry representatives, has organized two APEC regional capacity building events in Thailand. The first, an APEC Laboratory Capacity Building Workshop, under the auspices of the APEC/Food Safety Cooperation Forum's Partnership Training Initiative Network will take place on August 25-26, 2011 at the Pathumwan Princess Hotel, Bangkok. The second event, and APEC Regional Food Defense Workshop, endorsed by the APEC/Counter-Terrorism Task Force, will showcase the efforts and expertise of the four pilot project economies, Thailand, Peru, the Philippines, and Vietnam, experiences to the rest of the APEC community. The second event will be held from September 19-21, 2011 at Kasetsart University. The purpose of both events is to strengthen food defense capabilities in the APEC economies.

Food Ingredients Asia 2011 - Biggest Food Ingredients Show in Southeast Asia

Food Ingredients Asia (FI Asia) will be held once again in Bangkok during September 21-23, 2011. FI Asia is the premier trade event for food ingredients. In 2009, the show attracted 130 exhibitors from 20 countries and 6,225 visitors from 45 countries. This year the following organizations have considered participating in the USA Pavilion: The Wright Group, U.S. Dairy Export Council, U.S. Dry Pea & Lentil Council, and the Western United States Trade Association. The 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->

thailand.ingredientsnetwork.com/.