

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

TH9150 "SAWASDEE THAILAND" provides the latest information on the Thai agricultural situation and market access. See the latest updates on access for U.S. pork products, seed potatoes, and Virginia poultry. Note also proposed changes to Thai FDA's methods of analysis for pesticide residues in food as well as information on upcoming events.

General Information:

HOT NEWS

Thai Government Closely Monitoring "Jazzman" Rice

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center's (LSU Agcenter) new aromatic rice variety, "Jazzman" is causing a stir in Thailand. Some Thai Government officials argue "Jazzman" unfairly plays on "Jasmine", a term viewed by Thailand as proprietary. According to the LSU Agcenter, "Jazzman rice" was developed through crossbreeding and selection from a cross made in 1996 between an Arkansas variety and an unreleased aromatic rice line. In 2008, the U.S. imported 350,000 MT of Jasmine rice from Thailand.

MARKET ACCESS UPDATE

Thailand Lifts Ban on Virginia Poultry

On October 2, 2009 the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) notified USDA that the Thai Government lifted the temporary ban of poultry and poultry products from the State of Virginia. The ban had been in place since 2007 due to an outbreak of low pathogenic notifiable avian influenza (LPAI) in the Shenandoah Valley.

U.S. Seed Potato Import Protocol Nearing Completion

On October 7, 2009 USDA delivered a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture providing information on seed potatoes requested by Thai officials during their visit to the US in August. This information is expected to expedite the completion of the import protocol.

Thailand Bans U.S. Pork Products

On September 8, 2009 the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) notified USDA of its ban on U.S. pork offal. This ban includes pork and pork products including live pigs, pig genetics, fresh/chilled/frozen pork meat and offal. APHIS/Bangkok and FAS/Bangkok are working closely with the DLD to resolve this issue.

Thai FDA's Methods of Analysis for Pesticide Residues in Food

The Thai Food and Drug Administration notified WTO (G/SPS/N/THA/182), the Thai Food and Drug Administration Notification Regarding Methods of Analysis for Pesticide Residues in Food. The notification establishes the methods of analysis for pesticide residues in food prescribed by the Food and Drug Administration. The notification is currently available for comment. See [TH9144](#) for additional information.

Thai Feedmills Order 56,000 Tons of U.S. Soymeal

Seven medium-sized feedmills purchased a shipment of 56,000 tons of U.S. soy meal in late September valued at \$25 million. The shipment is scheduled to arrive in Thailand in the month of December. This is the largest shipment of U.S. soy meal in the past three years. It is estimated that total imports of U.S. soy meal in 2009 could reach 150,000 tons, a 25-fold increase over last year.

New Business Partner Emerges from the U.S. Pavilion at Food Ingredients Asia 2009

Connell Bros (Thailand) Co., Ltd. has just been appointed by Northwest Naturals to be an importer/distributor for their fruit juice concentrates. This comes as a result of successful negotiations during Food Ingredients Asia 2009 in September at the FAS-sponsored U.S. pavilion. Connell Brothers Company has been marketing and distributing food ingredients since 1962. For more information about this company please visit www.connellbrothers.com.

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for U.S. Exporters

A wood packaging manufacturer is looking for a U.S. softwood pallet maker. If interested, please contact Mr. Suchart Plengchindaruang, Vice President, Sakolchai Transpack L.P., 819 Soi Lasalle 24, Lassale Road, Bangkok 10260. Tel. +66 (0) 2749-8638/9, Fax. +66 (0) 2399-1308, Mobile: +66 (08) 1835-5905 Email: suchart@sakolchai.co.th.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

American Hardwood Design Camp II

The American Hardwood Design Camp II kicked off on October 10 sponsored by FAS/Bangkok, the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC), and the Thai Furniture Industries Association (TFA). This event builds on last year's success and will expand the target group to include professional designers. The activity is focused on expanding furniture products for commercial use that will be displayed at the Thailand International Furniture Fair (TIFF) in March 2010.

USDA Rice Analysts in Bangkok

FAS/Bangkok will host a USDA Rice Summit on October 21-22. Rice analysts from Washington, D.C. (Foreign Agricultural Service and Economic Research Service) and regional USDA offices in Southeast Asia will be sharing information and experiences on rice policy, production, trade and reporting.

2009 USPB Frozen Seminar "Dazzling 5 Star Hotels & Restaurants Recipes"

The United States Potato Board in Thailand will hold "Dazzling 5 Star Hotels & Restaurants Recipe" seminars to present innovative potato recipes for hotels and foodservice providers. The seminar will take place on October 21-22, 2009 at Swissotel Nai Lert Park Bangkok. For information on U.S. potatoes in Thailand visit <http://www.potatoesusa-thailand.com/en/index.php>.

U.S. FDA Sponsoring Thai Medical Scientists

Two medical scientists from the Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Uma Boriboon and Ms. Nongkran Ruengprapun, have been invited by the U.S. FDA to attend FDA's First Annual International Analytical Methods Conferences entitled "Global Laboratory Methods - Best Practices and New Technologies" on October 21-23, in Ohio. The conference will identify best laboratory practices and explore new technologies that respond more rapidly to food borne outbreaks and emergencies.

Soybean Buyers to Attend Conference in the U.S.

The American Soybean Association (ASA) representative in Thailand will lead a group of Thai soybean buyers to attend the Global Soybean and Grain Transport 2009 from November 1-8, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Please contact Mr. Opas Supamornpun at asathai@loxinfo.co.th for more information.