

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Agricultural Situation

Market Development Reports

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Report Highlights:

TH9134 "SAWASDEE THAILAND" provides the latest information on the Thai agricultural situation and market access. See the latest updates on the export eligibility of U.S. seed potatoes, Thai FDA regulatory changes for fluoride in drinking water, new import regulations for wood packaging materials, and information on upcoming events.

General Information:



SAWASDEE

THAILAND

Issue 9/2009

MARKET ACCESS UPDATE

Decision on the Export Eligibility of U.S. Seed Potatoes Expected Soon

An inspection team from the Thai Department of Agriculture audited export certification systems for potatoes in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California from August 16-23, 2009. Audit results should be available by the end of September. If approved, U.S. seed potatoes grown in these four states will be eligible for export to Thailand.

Thai FDA Inspections at the Port of Entry

The Thai Food and Drug Administration notified the WTO of changes in the Ministerial Regulation that requires licensed food importers to have their products inspected at the port of entry by the Thai Food and Drug Administration officials. See TH9125 for more information.

Thai FDA Revising Standard for Fluoride in Drinking Water

The Thai Food and Drug Administration is revising its food standard for drinking water in sealed containers. The revised notification will limit the content of Fluoride computed as Fluorine to less than 0.7 mg. per liter of drinking water. The revised level of Fluoride in drinking water is being reduced from 1.5 mg. per liter and aims to control the problem of dental and skeletal fluorosis found in both children and adults caused from the excessive intake of fluoride. See [TH9123](#) for additional information.

New Import Regulation on WPM Notified.

A new import regulation on wood packaging materials (WPM) was notified to the WTO on August 24, 2009. In addition to the requirements set out by the IPPC's international standard on WPM, the Government of Thailand is requiring a phytosanitary certificate on all shipments containing WPM. The comment period for this regulation is currently open. See [TH9128](#) for additional information.

Cochran Fellowship Program Activities

U.S. Food Safety Training September 19 – October 3, 2009 for Ms. Suree Wongpiyachon, Director of Food and Water Sanitation Division, Department of Health and Mr. Pisan Pongsapitch, Senior Expert, National Bureau of Ag Commodity & Food Standards.

Agricultural Rulemaking on Biotechnology Issue and Food Safety Training September 21 – 30, 2009 for Ms. Pattarin Sanghaisuk, Environmental Official, Ministry of Science and Technology and Ms. Mallika Kaewwises, Agricultural Scientist, Department of Agriculture.

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

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

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 U.S. Dairy Export Council, U.S. Potato Board, and WUSATA (Advanced Protein Systems, Commercial Creamery, Gold Coast Ingredients, Northwest Naturals, Estate Noni, SunOpta Grains and Foods Group). FI Asia show is a USDA-endorsed show. Additional information about this show can be found at <http://fiasia.ingredientsnetwork.com/home>.

California Milk Advisory Board Enters the Thai Market

The California Milk Advisory Board ([CMAB](#)) will hold promotional activities for their bakery ingredients in Bangkok September 14-15. These activities consist of a hands-on training activity for 30 chefs at the UFM Culinary School on September 14 and a trade reception at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel on September 15. The California Milk Advisory Board operates an international marketing program with the goal of building awareness and usage of California dairy products overseas.

Agricultural Biotechnology Risk Communication Workshop

FAS/Bangkok and the Department of State are organizing a workshop on agricultural biotechnology risk communication on October 5-6, 2009. The audience is expected to include Thai government biotechnologists, communicators, and regulatory officials, and also representatives from APEC economies.

DDGS Seminar for Swine Farmers and Feed Millers

The US Grain Council (USGC) will conduct a two-day seminar on U.S. corn distillers dried grain with solubles (DDGS) for swine farmers and feed millers on September 23 and 24 in Nakhonpathom and Bangkok. USGC expects 20-30 major swine producers and officials of the major feed mills in Thailand to attend the seminar.

California Wine Virtual Video Experience

FAS/Bangkok and FCS/Bangkok are organizing a virtual wine tasting conference on September 29, 2009. Three California wineries (Pacific Estates Winery, R&B Cellars, and Periscope Cellars) will present three varietals each to Thai importers/distributors through a video conferencing webcast. For further information, please contact AgBangkok@fas.usda.gov.