

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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### **The WASABI - Hot News from Japan Vol. 8 Issue 1**

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**Report Highlights:**

Japan Approves the States of Nevada and Montana as eligible shippers of U.S. chipping potatoes to Japan; Future Farmers of America Visit the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo; USDA Japan reaches out to Japanese Agricultural High School students; APHIS Lectures at the University of Miyazaki's Inaugural Event for its Center for Animal Disease Control.

## General Information:

# The Wasabi

*HOT News from Japan - Vol 8, Issue 1*  
January 30, 2012

**Japan Approves the States of Nevada and Montana as eligible shippers of U.S. chipping potatoes to Japan:** On January 27, 2012, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) approved the states of Nevada and Montana as eligible shippers of U.S. potatoes to Japan. Since the establishment of the 2006 import protocol, only 13 U.S. states were eligible to ship to Japan with limited access. Shipments from Idaho, one of the originally approved 14 states, remain banned due to a pale cyst nematode finding in 2006. Prior to MAFF's recent approval, only the States of California and Washington (since 2010) were actively shipping chipping potatoes to Japan, now the States of Nevada and Montana will join the list of eligible shipping states. First requested in June 2011, MAFF's approval is expected to secure an additional \$1.3 million in U.S. potato sales to Japan. In 2011 (Jan-Nov), Japan U.S. exports of fresh potatoes to Japan reached their highest level since the opening of the Japanese market at \$4.6 million.

**Future Farmers of America Visit the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo:** On January 30, 2012, the National Officers for the Future Farmers of America (FFA) visited the U.S. Embassy to discuss agriculture in Japan. During the meeting the six FFA representatives met with both the Agricultural Affairs Office and Agricultural Trade Office, in addition to meeting with Ambassador Roos, and participated in an engaging conversation on the role of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), current Japanese agricultural production and consumption patterns, and Japanese trade and trade policy. FFA, an organization of over 540,000 members, builds partnerships with industry, education, government, foundations, and individuals to secure resources for the future of education, agriculture, and student leader development.



**USDA Japan Reaches Out to Japanese Agricultural High School Students:** On January 24, USDA Japan hosted a visit by forty students and their teachers from the Kumamoto Prefectural Agricultural High School. The officers and analysts of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Tokyo and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) gave presentations about their missions and some notable topics included "the Importance of Science in Agricultural Production" and "Calculated Risk of Transmitted Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) virus through the export." Each presenter prepared interactive quizzes related to their topics for students to answer through a computerized response system. Students whose answers were all correct received special prizes. This visit was the students first time to meet with USDA officials and learn about American agriculture.

**APHIS Lectures at the University of Miyazaki's Inaugural Event for its Center for Animal Disease Control:** Drs. Kelly Preston and Kuniaki Suzuki of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) were among 15 international speakers invited for the inauguration of the University of Miyazaki, Faculty of Agriculture's new Center for Animal Disease Control on January 20, 2012. The main theme of the international symposium was "One World, One Medicine: Global Countermeasures against Trans-boundary Animal Infectious Diseases". The APHIS presentations to the packed house with about 300 participants were on its capacity building activities in Southeast Asia for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) for the last six years and a quantitative risk analysis on Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (LPAI) virus intrusion to importing countries through international trade of poultry meat. The prefecture of Miyazaki experienced

foot-and-mouth disease in 2000 and 2010, and HPAI in the winter of 2010-2011. In that regard, the expectation by those involved for the Center is great. The symposium was funded by the University of Miyazaki and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and supported by JA Miyazaki and Miyazaki Veterinary Association. The Center will ensure cooperation among pertinent organizations so as to contribute animal disease prevention through enhancing their research capacity.



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