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Report Highlights:

This report contains a summary of agriculture and trade related news articles. Articles this week include: (1) Secretary Vilsack Meets Vice Premier Hui Liangyu and Minister of Commerce Chen Deming; (2) 2009 China Food Safety and Quality Control Conference; (3) China Issues Stimulus Plan for Forestry Industry; (4) Chinese Government Releases 500,000 MT of Cotton Reserves; (5) China to Raise Grain Production Capacity by 50 MMT, Reaching 550 MMT by 2020; (6) State Forestry Administration Releases Forestry Action Plan on Climate Change.

Secretary Vilsack Meets Vice Premier Hui Liangyu and Minister of Commerce Chen Deming:

Before attending the cabinet level Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) meeting in Hangzhou, Secretary Vilsack met with Vice Premier Hui Liangyu and Minister of Commerce Chen Deming in Beijing on October 27, 2009. Secretary Vilsack engaged Vice Premier Hui Liangyu on a variety of topics such as climate change, food security, biotechnology, as well as strengthening agricultural trade. Discussions with Minister Chen focused on a variety of issues, including A-H1N1, U.S. beef access, avian influenza, and Chinese poultry market access to the United States. (Source: Xinhua News Agency and MOFCOM website, 11/29/2009)

2009 China Food Safety and Quality Control Conference: On November 4, the 2009 China Food Safety and Quality Control Conference provided an opportunity for worldwide experts in food safety to discuss concerns on standards, policies, management, and technique issues. Over 500 participants attended from organizations such as the World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture of the United Nations, and the European Commission. The U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission also attended the opening. (Source: Farmers Daily, 11/4/2009)

China Issues Stimulus Plan for Forestry Industry: On November 4, the central government issued a forestry industry stimulus plan intended to cushion the blow from the international financial crisis. The overall plan includes: (1) providing support for over 100 national enterprises in the forestry sector; (2) sustaining GDP growth at 12 percent; (3) increasing exports; (4) providing subsidies for development projects; and (5) encouraging qualified enterprises to raise capital for their production and operations. (Source: Xinhua News Agency, 11/4/2009)

Chinese Government Releases 500,000 MT of Cotton Reserve: On October 30, the Government of China (GOC) released another 500,000 metric tons (MT) of state cotton reserves to meet the demands of the textile industry. This news follows releases of 1.52 million MT in May and 0.6 million MT in August. Based on China Cotton Association news, as of October 31, a total of 2.1 MMT was sold. According to the National Statistics Bureau, yarn production in September rose to 2.1 MMT, a 12-percent increase from the previous year. Total yarn production in the first nine months of 2009 stood at 17.2 MMT. By releasing extra cotton, the GOC hopes to keep input prices at a reasonable level for manufacturers. (Source: China-cotton.org)

China to Raise Grain Production Capacity by 50 MMT, Reaching 550 MMT by 2020: According to the National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC), the Government of China (GOC) plans to raise grain production capacity by 50 million metric tons (MMT) in 12 years, reaching 550 MMT by 2020. In a document titled “National Planning on an Increase of Grain Production Capacity by 100 Billion Jin (1 Jin = 500 grams) from 2009-2020,” the GOC set certain requirements that include (1) maintaining 1.8 billion mu (300 million acres) of arable land; (2) planting 1.58 billion mu (263 million acres) of grain; and (3) setting yields to reach 5.25 tons/ha. (Source: NDRC website)

State Forestry Administration Releases Forestry Action Plan on Climate Change: On November 6, the State Forestry Administration (SFA) released the “Forestry Action Plan on Addressing Climate Change.” The plan, which took more than two years to develop, states five goals including: (1) integrating forestry development goals that coincide with the country’s climate change strategy; (2) expanding forest acreage and increasing quality; (3) addressing the issue of increasing carbon sequestration and controlling carbon emission; (4) encouraging “government dominance and society participation;” and (5) proactively addressing climate change. A full description of the plan can be found on SFA’s website: <http://www.forestry.gov.cn/> (Source: State Forestry Administration routine press conference, 11/6/2009)