



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 10/11/2007

GAIN Report Number: TH7141

Thailand

Agricultural Situation

Sawasdee Thailand - Issue 6/2007

2007

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Report Highlights:

"SAWASDEE THAILAND" is a monthly newsletter providing the latest information on the Thai agricultural situation and U.S. export opportunities. In this issue you will find: USDA requests exemption under new Thai plant import regulations; market access update for Thailand bans ruminants and carcasses from montana, Thailand's requirements for U.S. meat and poultry, Thai food labeling changes to promote breastfeeding; and interesting upcoming events.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]



SAWASDEE THAILAND

Issue 6/2007

HOT NEWS FROM THAILAND

USDA Requests Exemption Under New Thai Plant Import Regulations

New Thai plant regulations requiring pest risk assessments for all imports of fresh fruits and vegetables became effective on July 31, 2007. Under the regulation's transition provisions, USDA requested exemptions for 15 commodities in order to allow continued importation into Thailand until the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards completes plant risk analyses. Details about the Thai plant quarantine notifications can be found on the web in GAIN report (TH7073) at www.fas.usda.gov

MARKET ACCESS AND POLICY UPDATE

Thailand Bans Ruminants and Carcasses From Montana

On September 11, 2007 the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Department of Livestock Development (DLD), banned live ruminants and carcasses from Montana due to unofficial reports concerning anthrax. The action follows identical bans in August for Texas, Minnesota, and North Dakota. The USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service and DLD are discussing additional import requirements on ruminant products from the rest of the United States. Additional details can be found on the web in GAIN reports TH7123 and TH7105 at www.fas.usda.gov

Thailand's Requirements for U.S. Meat and Poultry

Are you interested in the latest information on Thailand's requirements for U.S. meat and poultry? Visit USDA Food Safety and Inspection's website at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Thailand_Requirements/index.asp

Thai Food Labeling Changes to Promote Breastfeeding

Last month, the Thai FDA proposed modifications of the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) Notifications No. 156 (Modified Milk for Infant and Modified Milk of Uniform Formula for Infant and Children) and No. 157 (Food for Infant and Food of Uniform Formula for Infant and Small Children). These notifications stress the importance and correct use of maternal milk. The details of the food labeling changes can be found on the web in GAIN report TH7129 and TH7135 at www.fas.usda.gov

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

Thai Company Seeks Instant Full Cream/Whole Milk Powder

The Thanasarn Company is seeking 200MT of milk powder. If interested, please contact Mr. Chananop Laohathanasarn, Manager, Tanasarn Company, 21/204-6 Moo 12, Bangna, Bangkok, Tel&Fax: 66-2-890-2989, Email: chananop@thanasarn.co.th

Good Response to U.S. Wine Pairing with U.S. Beef and U.S. Turkey

On September 17 and 18, Lim Hwee Peng, wine writer and wine educator led a standing-room-only seminar for more than 60 food and beverage leaders on pairing U.S. wines with U.S. beef and poultry. Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive with many participants planning to recommend the inclusion of more U.S. wine on the lists/shelves at their respective hotels and retail outlets.

Hardwood Lumber Grading Seminar in Bangkok

On September 24, the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) sponsored a grading seminar for more than 40 Thai furniture manufacturers and importers. Bob Sabistina, former Chief Inspector of the National Hardwood Lumber Association, clarified grading standards for U.S. hardwood lumber, and is planning to be one of the speakers in a hardwood program on furniture design next year.

Food Ingredients Asia 2007 Attracts High-value Crowd

Food Ingredients Asia (Fi Asia) attracted a record 7,000 food industry professionals from 54 countries. Companies participating in the U.S. pavilion generated 115 serious contacts with 12 month projected sales exceeding \$1 million.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAS/Bangkok Conducts Meat Regulatory and Trade Workshop

On October 3, FAS/Bangkok hosted a regulatory and trade workshop focusing U.S. meat products with nearly 40 regulators, veterinarians and food scientists from the relevant Thai agencies. Mr. Patrick Clerkin from The Cavan Advantage Inc., provided an overview of U.S. animal health and food control systems affecting beef exports as well as the current trade partner requirements for U.S. beef.

FAS/Bangkok Organizes USA Fruits & Wines Pavilion at Siam Paragon

On October 5-7, the American Chamber of Commerce Thailand and the U.S. Embassy co-sponsored the "Buy U.S.A. Fair" at Siam Paragon in Bangkok. This year's fair brought in over 25,000 visitors, more than double last year's attendance. The USA Fruits & Wines Pavilion included Ambrose Wine, Canpac Beverages, City Fresh Fruit, Super Fresh Import Export, V&K Inter Group, and the Wine & Spirit Trading.

Cochran Fellowship Program

Bakery Ingredients, 2007: Thai bakery representatives will visit the International Baking Industry Expo (IBIE) in Orlando, and bakery operations in Minneapolis October 6-19. While in the Minneapolis the group will visit Jerry's Foods, Franklin Street Bakery, and Kowalski's Bakery Operations for pastry and bread baking training sessions.

Training in Sanitary & Phytosanitary Rules and Policies: Participants from the Department of Livestock Development and the Thai Department of Agriculture will travel to Washington, D.C. on October 6-20 to receive training on livestock issues and meat inspection. Following the training in D.C., the participants will travel to North Dakota for field trips to farms, slaughter facilities, and libraries to see how U.S. regulations are implemented at the farm level.

Wood Packaging Materials: Four Thai participants from private and public organizations will travel to Washington, D.C. October 20-November 3 for a wood packaging materials training session conducted by the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association and Dow Agro-science. The program is aimed at facilitating smooth and effective implementation of ISPM-16 (an international standard for wood packaging materials) in Thailand.

USDA Regional Strategic Market Conference in Tunisia

More than 31 FAS/Washington from 14 offices will be meeting in Hamamet, Tunisia as the recently reorganized Foreign Agricultural Service promotes organizational effectiveness. Field staff will engage agency program areas, and key private sector stakeholders in a series of workshops to ensure successful implementation of strategic plans under the FAS reorganization.

Biotechnology Update/Seminar/Conference in Thailand

This year's BioAsia 2007 Thailand conference will be hosted at the Queen Sirikit Convention Center, Bangkok, on November 7-9. The conference will feature the 6th Asian Crop Science Association Conference and the 2nd International Conference on Rice for the Future. More details can be found in <http://www.biotec.or.th/BioAsia2007/home/conference.asp>

End of the Report.