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Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Name: Japan Proposes GI Protection for 28 UK-Produced Food Products

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Dairy and Products, Livestock and Products, Potatoes and Potato Products, Fishery Products, Country/Regional FTA's

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Report Highlights:

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) opened a public comment period for 28 proposed geographical indications (GIs) for food products from the United Kingdom. Products include meat, dairy, seafood, meat pies, salt, hops, and potatoes. MAFF will accept comments on the GI proposal through March 22, 2022.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

General Information

On December 22, 2021, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) published a list of 28 newly proposed geographical indications (GIs) for agricultural products from the United Kingdom (UK) (Table 1) for public comment. The products include 9 types of meat, 7 types of dairy products, 7 seafood categories, 2 kinds of meat pies, 1 potato variety, hops and salt. From December 22, 2021 for 7 years (JA8065), MAFF no longer allows the use of these 28 GI terms in other (good-faith) products distributed in Japan.

Following the public comment period, MAFF will hold an expert committee meeting to make a final determination on the GI designation for these products.

Table 1. UK Proposed 28 Agricultural Products for GI Protection

ID#	Product Name	Product Type	MAFF Category
113	Anglesey Sea Salt/ Halen Môn	Salt	Class 8: Seasonings
114	Arbroath Smokies	Smoked haddock	Class 7: Processed seafood
115	Conwy Mussels	Mussel	Class 4: Seafood
116	Cornish Clotted Cream	Dairy	Class 6: Livestock products
117	Cornish Pasty	Meat pie	Class 10: Bread and Confectionery
118	East Kent Goldings	Hop & hop pellet	Class 1: Agricultural (Ag) products & Class 5: Processed ag products
119	Isle of Man Queenies	Queen scallop	Class 4: Seafood
120	London Cure Smoked Salmon	Smoked salmon	Class 7: Processed seafood
121	Lough Neagh Eel	Eel	Class 4: Seafood
122	Lough Neagh Pollan	Pollan fish	Class 4: Seafood
123	Melton Mowbray Pork Pie	Pork pie	Class 6: Livestock products
124	Orkney Scottish Island Cheddar	Natural cheese	Class 6: Livestock products
125	Pembrokeshire Earlies/Early Potatoes	Potato	Class 1: Ag Products
126	Scotch Beef	Beef	Class 2: Fresh Meat
127	Scotch Lamb	Lamb	Class 2: Fresh Meat
128	Single Gloucester	Natural cheese	Class 6: Livestock products
129	Staffordshire Cheese	Natural cheese	Class 6: Livestock products
130	Stornoway Black Pudding	Blood sausage	Class 6: Livestock products
131	Traditional Ayrshire Dunlop	Natural cheese	Class 6: Livestock products
132	Traditional Cumberland Sausage	Sausage	Class 6: Livestock products
133	Traditional Grimsby Smoked Fish	Cold smoked cod/haddock	Class 7: Processed seafood
134	Traditional Welsh Caerphilly/ Caerffili	Natural cheese	Class 6: Livestock products
135	Welsh Beef	Beef	Class 2: Fresh Meat
136	Welsh Lamb	Lamb	Class 2: Fresh Meat

137	Welsh Laverbread	Processed laver	Class 7: Processed seafood
138	West Country Beef	Beef	Class 2: Fresh Meat
139	West Country Lamb	Lamb	Class 2: Fresh Meat
140	Yorkshire Wensleydale	Natural cheese	Class 6: Livestock products

Japan's GI System for Food Products

The 2015 Act on the Protection of the Names of Specific Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Foodstuffs (hereafter referred to as the GI Act) established Japan's GI system for agricultural and food products (JA5008). To receive a GI protection, domestic and foreign products have to go through a registration process that includes a public comment period and a review by an expert committee. As of December 2021, MAFF has registered 110 GIs[1] for agricultural, forestry, and fishery products through domestic registration and 89 GIs for EU food products through a reciprocal arrangement under the Japan-European Union (EU) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) (see JA7151 and JA2020-0141).

When the Japan-EU EPA went into effect on February 1, 2019, MAFF granted GI protection to 71 agricultural and fisheries products from the EU (see JA7151), including three UK products (Scottish Farmed Salmon, West Country farmhouse Cheddar cheese, and White/Blue Stilton cheese). After the UK left the EU, Japan and UK concluded a bilateral EPA implemented on January 1, 2021 (see JA2021-0005), and the UK successfully reapplied for GI protection for the three food products in Japan.

How to Submit Comments to MAFF

Comments on the 21 newly proposed GI designations must be submitted in Japanese using the submission form, which is to be stamped with the submitter's seal or signed. MAFF will accept comments submitted by March 22, 2022. Comments can be provided:

In-person or via mail to:
Intellectual Property Division, Export and International Bureau,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8950, Japan
MAFF will accept comments in-person Monday-Friday, except for holidays, at the address above, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, and from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Via e-mail:
gi-info@maff.go.jp – the email will need to include a digital scan of the submission form signed or stamped with the submitter's seal.

Attachments:

No Attachments.

[1] This total includes 3 foreign product, which completed the domestic GI registration process: Prosciutto di Parma of Italy (JA7118), Lục Ngạn Lychee, and Bình Thuận Dragon Fruit of Vietnam (JA9073).