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Japan

Agricultural Situation

This Week in Japan

2001

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Report Highlights: Keidanren Seeks Greater Market Access for Farm Goods at WTO; MAFF Says No Effect on Pigs Fed StarLink Corn; Costco Wholesale to Open Third Outlet in Japan; U.S. Seafood Promoted at Japan International Seafood Exposition.

Includes PSD changes: No
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This Week in Japan

An Update of Major News and Events from the Largest U.S. Agricultural Export Market

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i Keidanren Seeks Greater Market Access for Farm Goods at WTO: According to media reports, the powerful Japanese business lobby Keidanren supports the importance of liberalizing agricultural markets through the World Trade Organization. This month the organization will submit these views to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While Keidanren's overall position on trade liberalization is positive and emphasizes negotiations be completed in three years, the group seeks support for comprehensive negotiations rather than the U.S. backed sectoral position. (AgAffairs Tokyo)

i MAFF Says No Effect on Pigs Fed StarLink Corn: On July 19, the Japanese Agriculture Ministry (MAFF) announced that StarLink corn fed to pigs had no effect on productivity nor was the Cry9C protein found in the meat. Earlier this year MAFF announced, based on similar StarLink corn feeding trials, the Cry9C protein was not detected in broiler meat, cow's milk, and chicken eggs. The latest information is supporting evidence to be used by MAFF in its ongoing feed safety assessment for StarLink corn. (AgAffairs Tokyo)

i Costco Wholesale to Open Third Outlet in Japan: Costco Wholesale Japan announced plans to open a new outlet in Machida City, a suburb of Tokyo, in the summer of 2002. According to the *Nihon Keizai* newspaper, Costco intends to add two to three new outlets per year in the near term, including stores in Nagoya and Osaka. (AgAffairs Tokyo, ATO/Tokyo)

i U.S. Seafood Promoted at Japan International Seafood Exposition: The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) and the American Seafood Institute/Main Lobster Promotion Council participated in the 3rd Japan International Seafood & Technology Expo held July 17-19 in Tokyo. During the three-day show, a variety of U.S. seafood products were showcased to nearly 20,000 Japanese seafood buyers, and taste tests of Japanese cuisine and bagel sandwiches using U.S. seafood products were particularly well received. Following the exhibition, ASMI also hosted a reception for 70 Japanese trade and media guests. (ATO/Tokyo)

i Upcoming Events: August 27 Single-Buyer Showcase with Prince Hotels in Tokyo; August 30 Toho Food Service Fair 2001 in Kobe (Western Japan); September 5 Toho Food Service Fair 2001 in Fukuoka (Western Japan); September 18-19 CGC Food Products Annual Exhibition in Yokohama (near Tokyo); September 26-28 Health Ingredients Japan in Tokyo.