

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

TH0113 "SAWASDEE THAILAND" provides the latest information on the Thai agricultural situation, market access, and upcoming events. In this issue learn about the increase in visitors for the first half of 2010, RTG plans to exclude alcohol beverages in trade arrangements and the import liberalization of breeding layer chicks.

General Information:

HOT NEWS

Tourism Authority of Thailand Reports Arrivals up 13 Percent in First Half of 2010

In spite of the sharp declines in arrivals during the political crisis months of May and June 2010, international arrivals were enjoyed a 13.70 percent increase for the first half of 2010 as compared to 2009. Figures for January - June 2010 totaled 7.5 million arrivals up from 6.6 million in the same period of 2009. The Tourism Authority of Thailand is expects to meet its goal of attracting 14.5 million arrivals in 2010, as promotional programs have been responsible for this uptick. Consumption of U.S. wines, seafood and beef are largely driven by the tourist industry.

Thailand Considering Excluding Alcohol Beverages in Trade Agreements

According to the Deputy Commerce Minister, Mr. Alongkorn Ponlaboot, the Thai government is considering to exclude alcohol beverages from existing and new free trade agreements, claiming that they are harmful to health and society. This might stall current attempts of a possible trade agreement with the EU, as the EU has stated that it will not engage in any negotiations if alcohol is excluded from from the agreement.

MARKET ACCESS UPDATE

Thailand Liberalizes Imports of Breeding Layer Chicks

On July 15, the Thai Cabinet agreed to liberalize imports of breeding layer chicks in an effort to address tight egg supplies. Prior to the Cabinet's agreement, imports of breeding chicks were administered by a government-appointed committee, the Committee on Layers and Egg Product Development Policy, which would set quotas on the imports of layer chicks, i.e. 405,721 birds in 2010, in an effort to sustain prices. According to the Department of Livestock Development, Thailand imported 259,250 birds of layer breeding stocks in 2008, including 14,500 birds from the U.S. valued at 1.84 million baht (\$53,730).

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

DVC Product Presentations

FAS/Bangkok can help facilitate digital video conference with Thai importers. Please contact us for more information at agbangkok@fas.usda.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Relocation of Asia Aquaculture Conference 2010 from Thailand to Philippines

On August 2-5, 2010 ASA International Marketing will hold the First East Asia Aquaculture Conference in Manila, Philippines. The event was schedule to take place on March 22-25 in Bangkok, Thailand but was canceled due to political turmoil. The event's theme is: "Improving Aquaculture through Feeds and Technology". The conference features the latest developments on aquaculture production, marine fish and shrimp culture, coastal management, and feed ingredients and technology. The programs have been specifically tailored for the Southeast Asian Region.

U.S. DDGS Outreach

The U.S. Grain Council will conduct a seminar on "Optimizing DDGS Use in Poultry Nutrition" in Bangkok on Tuesday, August 10, 2010. The venue will be at Millennium Hilton Hotel from 8:30 - 16:15. In addition to highlighting the advantages of DDGS (Distiller's Dried Grains with Soluble) in poultry nutrition, the presentation will include updates on DDGS supplies and current market and trade trade snapshots.

American Wine Seminars 2010 in Bangkok and Phuket

Moderated by Mr. Lim Hwee Peng, an experienced and well-qualified wine professional member of the Society of Wine Educators and Certified Napa Valley Wine Educators, Post will host 2010 American Wine Seminar. The seminar will provide leading F&B managers, restaurateurs, retailers, and wine enthusiasts to learn about the characteristics of U.S. wines, their selling points, and how to maximize profits in the F&B industry. The culmination of this event will be on September 2, in which the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand will host an executive dinner for VIPs.

Gourmet Market 7 Seas - Seafood Festival

Siam Paragon Retail together with Thammachart Seafood will host "Gourmet Market 7 Seas - Seafood Festival" from August 1-15, 2010 at Gourmet Market store in Siam Paragon, The Emporium, KVillage and at selected Home Fresh Mart outlets. This event will feature seafood products from all over the world, with special highlights on Alaskan king crab, lobster, wild Alaskan salmon, and scallop.

7th Southeast Asia U.S. Agricultural Cooperators Conference

The American Soybean Association (ASA), U.S. Grain Council (USGC), and U.S. Wheat Associates (USWA) will co-organize the 7th Southeast Asia U.S. Agricultural Cooperators Conference which will be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam during September 14-17, 2010. The conference's presentations and discussions will cover global climate change and its impact on agriculture; ASEAN-Free Trade Area; world corn, soy and wheat production, supply and demand; and the global economic outlook.

