

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

TH1128 "SAWASDEE THAILAND" provides the latest information on Thai agricultural situation, market access for U.S. products and upcoming events.

General Information:

HOT NEWS

MARKET ACCESS UPDATE

Protein Level Requirement on DDGS May Disrupt Trade

The Department of Livestock Development (DLD) recently endorsed a new regulation which implied that DDGS is subject to product registration prior to import. The regulation also stipulates that all DDGS imported or used as feed ingredients must have protein content not lower than 26%, fiber content not more than 12%, and moisture not more than 12.5%. FAS/Bangkok is working closely with Thai importers and U.S. Grains Council (USGC) to request the DLD to lower the level of protein content before the regulation will be officially effective on October 23, 2011. The Thai Feed Mill Association also submitted its same request to the DLD.

Updates on Agricultural Chemical Registration

Under the new Hazardous Substance Act (No. 3) B.E. 2551 (A.D. 2008), all current licenses for the production, import, export, and possession of pesticides became void as of August 22, 2011. Pesticide suppliers, domestic and foreign, must submit new applications to register their products. After several months of negotiations and discussions with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to address the deadlock of meeting the new deadline, the DOA agreed to: 1) allow stakeholders to work on two steps of registration in parallel; 2) review the submitted documents in a timely manner; and 3) allow stakeholders to keep up to two years stocks of products imported or manufactured prior to August 22, 2011. Up-to-date, trade sources reported that the DOA has approved registration for 50-100 pesticide products while about 200 products are in the pipelines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

U.S. Wheat Association's Crop Seminar on November 15, 2011

U.S. Wheat Association (USWA) will conduct its annual crop seminar on November 15, 2011 at the Conrad Bangkok Hotel. The seminar will provide a review on the world supply and demand situation and outlook for wheat trade in MY2011/2012 marketing year and quality information on the six classes of U.S. wheat. The presentation will be given by key U.S. wheat experts, including 1) Dr. David Shelton, Executive Director of the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, Oregon; 2) Mr. Jim Peterson, Marketing Director of the North Dakota Wheat Commission in Mandan, North Dakota; and 3) Mr. Steve Wirsching, Director of U.S. Wheat Associates, West Coast Office. Visit www.uswheat.org for more information.

Great Success of Food Ingredients Asia 2011 – Biggest Food Ingredients Show in Southeast Asia

The FI Asia is considered to be the major regional event that features food ingredients and technology, and the busy aisles attested to the show's popularity as it had an exceptional increase in attendees – over 40% more attendees than in 2009. During the 3-day show, the more than 9,000 attendees mingled with the 489 exhibitors representing 34 countries, a 134% increase in number of exhibitors from 2009. They were drawn to FI Asia due to the show's outstanding networking and business opportunities, as key industry players came together to learn about the latest trends and developments in their market and explore business opportunities. Among the new-to-market products introduced in the USA Pavilion were medicinal mushrooms, and colostrums powder. In addition, popular products exhibited at the pavilion included lactose, whey powder, cheese powder, dry peas and bean products, soy milk powder, snack seasonings, and nutrient premixes. The exhibitors made 100 serious contacts, and 11 companies reported projected 12-month sales of \$6 million.

First IKEA Outlet in Thailand

IKEA, the Swedish home furnishing retailer is counting down towards the November 3 official opening of its first store in Thailand on Bangna Trad Road. The company printed 1 million issues of 2012 products catalog and started to distribute on October 3. They expect about 40,000 walk in per day. A free catalog of the products displayed can be downloaded from www.IKEA.co.th.

American Hardwood Design Camp IV

October will be a month of activities to kick-off the American Hardwood Design Camp IV. Activities will include a trip to visit furniture plants, a seminar highlighting furniture design and inspiration, and a four day hand-on workshop on U.S. hardwood. This year's theme will be "Small Furniture for Small Spaces" and will include participants from universities, faculty, and four professional designers. More information please contact agbangkok@fas.usda.gov.