
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

GAIN reports:

Gain reports are from the “Global Agricultural Information Network” and are produced by the USDA. They are designed to provide timely information on the economy, products and issues in foreign countries that are likely to have an impact on United States agricultural production and trade. The information in them is written for USA exporters but the majority is equally relevant to New Zealand. With regard to import regulations for a particular market New Zealand exporters should first check the countries ICPR on MPI’s web site.

- **Prognosfruit 2022 | E42022-0055**

On August 3-5, 2022, the World Apple and Pear Association (WAPA) presented the 2022 EU apple and pear crop forecast at the 47th edition of the Prognosfruit convention. WAPA forecasts the 2022 EU fresh apples crop at 12.2 million metric tons (MT), 1.3 percent above the 2021 harvest and nine percent higher than the average of the preceding three years. Production of fresh pears is forecast at 2.1 million MT. This is an increase of 20 percent compared to 2021, and five percent higher than the preceding three years’ average. This forecast reflects the situation as of mid-July. The heatwave and drought in July/August in large parts of Europe may result in a substantially lower production than forecast. Full report [here](#)

- **Long Term Trends in Japanese Agriculture and Agricultural Imports | JA2022-0065**

Japan’s decline in farmland, combined with a shortage of agricultural labor, changes in consumer diets, and the opening of the Japanese market, have boosted imports of many agricultural products. This report looks at the long terms trends in production area and agricultural production in Japan, and its impact on agricultural trade. Full report [here](#)

Regulator news:

UK moves to allow gene-edited crops for first time

The UK’s new Genetic Technology Bill will allow for the development of gene-edited crops in England and the sale of genetically edited foods across Great Britain. The bill is expected to come into force over the next few years despite significant public concern. Full article [here](#)

Market overview:

Global Market Overview Apples

As a staple fruit, apples remain ever popular in households worldwide. Many production areas, however, have been affected by unusual weather conditions during the growing season this year. In the UK, recent warm weather pushed the season forward by more than week for some varieties, whilst the same heat in France and Italy has caused a drop in production in these countries. The frosty spell in the spring in

Spain and Serbia has also caused losses, whilst in North America similar conditions have caused fruits of differing maturity on the same tree, making harvest more challenging than usual. The full Fresh Plaza article provides an overview of key markets. [Full article here](#)

Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade: August 2022

Fresh fruit and vegetables are forecast to be \$200 million higher in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) August release of its Outlook for US Agriculture Trade quarterly report.

Fiscal year (FY) forecast for horticultural products is a record \$39.5 billion, up \$400 million from FY 2021. Fresh fruit and vegetables are forecast to be \$200 million higher to \$7.1 billion, and processed fruit and vegetables are forecast to \$100 million higher to \$7.3 billion on rising exports to Canada and Mexico. Whole and processed tree nuts are forecast to be \$300 million lower to \$9.5 billion on slightly weaker shipments to Europe and Asia. "Other horticultural products" are forecast up \$400 million to \$15.6 billion on higher miscellaneous products (e.g., other food preparations, beer, and mixed seasonings) to Canada, Mexico, and Europe.

In FY 2023, values of fresh fruit imports are expected to grow by \$200 million over FY 2022, values to \$18.3 billion. Fresh fruit forecast volumes are adjusted upward from the previous forecast, which—coupled with increasing unit values—are expected to increase over FY 2022 import values to \$18.1 billion. Although fresh fruit imports for commodities such as bananas, avocados, and blueberries continue their upward trend, reduced U.S. production of citrus due to poor weather conditions also contributed to increased reliance on fruit imports in FY 2022. [Full article here](#), [Full report here](#)

In The News:

Australian growers desperate for workers, but won't increase wages

While floods, COVID and supply-chain problems have caused food prices around Australia to rise, a chronic shortage of farm workers could slow the a return to normality.

Coles hiked grocery prices 3.8 per cent in the six months to June, with vegetables prices hard hit. Recent drier weather has allowed farmers to replenish their crops enough for prices on produce such as lettuce to ease. But the shortage of at least 172,000 workers across the food supply chain could have long-term effects on the price and availability of food in stores, claimed the National Farmers Federation (NFF). However, the industry does not want to attract workers with better wages. [Full article here](#).

Scorching summer diminishes European potato crop

Europe's scorching summer is predicted to result in the smallest potato crop in years, threatening further price rises for popular foods such as fries. Parched conditions in Germany, France, the Netherlands and Belgium - the northwestern belt that accounts for most European Union potato output - could push EU production to its lowest on record, below that seen in similarly drought-hit 2018.

European producers caution that crop estimates are tentative before the main harvest gets underway in September, and that rain showers and recent cooler temperatures may bring late relief. But on some farms, there is scant hope.

International food firms like McDonald's have also raised prices this year in response to mounting commodity costs, with fries among items it increased in Britain this summer. [Full article here](#).

China: Covid lockdowns return to key port cities

Covid lockdowns are being imposed in China again. Residential areas in key port cities such as Shenzhen and Dalian were closed off again this week, and mass testing is underway at other important maritime gateways, including Tianjin.

There is no let up in the government's zero-covid policy, which has stretched global supply chains a great deal this year. The difference today is that while outbreaks have been getting more widespread in the last fortnight, lockdowns are pursued neighbourhood by neighbourhood rather than city-wide, and quarantine times have been cut back since the middle of June, according to analysis from research firm Gavekal Dragonomics. Full article [here](#).

Jaguar signs deal to supply climate-neutral oranges

Two of the Netherlands' biggest foodservice buyers sign landmark sourcing agreement designed to protect environment. Dutch importer-marketer Jaguar The Fresh Company has agreed a landmark agreement to supply climate-neutral oranges to two of its largest customers in the Netherlands from the start of September.

Mathieu Hirdes, retail manager at Jaguar, said the switch to certified climate-neutral fruit made perfect sense given the need for action to protect the global climate. "Oranges are a key segment within the fresh fruit category – around 10 per cent, so it made sense for us to be the first player to redefine this playing field," he said. "We are now substantially reducing CO2 emissions in the orange supply chain." Full article [here](#).

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