

TRADE UPDATE

Food & Agriculture



Provided by CRA

December 8, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- **U.S. – China:** Bilateral tensions with China escalated last week as the Trump Administration banned cotton imports from China’s Xinjiang Province citing use of forced labor of Uyghur Muslims. China quickly countered stating the U.S. was interfering in China’s domestic policy.
- **U.S. – Ecuador:** The U.S. and Ecuador are expected to sign a phase-one trade agreement this week that covers provisions on trade facilitation, good regulatory practices, anti-corruption, and cooperation on small and medium-sized enterprises.
- **USMCA:** USTR may file dispute settlement proceedings under USMCA regarding Canadian dairy import barriers according to reports.
- **WTO:** Several WTO members are proposing a prohibition on export restrictions for food bought for the World Food program, a hunger-focused humanitarian branch of the UN.
- **U.S. – EU:** The EU’s new trans-Atlantic [agenda](#) calls for an EU-U.S. Summit in the first half of 2021. President-elect Biden previously signaled a willingness to rebuild U.S. – EU foreign policy and trade ties.

China Trade

- President-elect Joe Biden signaled his multilateral approach and intent to rejoin a united front against China’s growing power in the global economy. In a New York Times [interview](#), Biden said, “The best China strategy, I think, is one which gets every one of our -- or at least what used to be our -- allies on the same page.” “It’s going to be a major priority for me in the opening weeks of my presidency to try to get us back on the same page with our allies.” Biden further noted he would not immediately lift the 25% tariffs on China nor scuttle the China phase one deal but rather review it before making any decisions. “I’m not going to make any immediate moves, and the same applies to the tariffs,” Biden said, according to the report. “I’m not going to prejudice my options.” Biden concluded that addressing the China challenge is all about “leverage,” and “in my view, we don’t have it yet.”
- The Trump administration announced an import ban on any cotton or cotton products from Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC), accused of using forced labor of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province. U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which announced the ban on Wednesday, said it applies to all cotton and cotton products produced by XPCC and its affiliates, including any “made in whole or in part with or derived from that cotton, such as apparel, garments, and textiles.” “The human rights abuses taking place at the hands of the Chinese Communist government will not be tolerated by President Trump and the American people,” said Ken Cuccinelli, acting deputy secretary for the Homeland Security Department (DHS). An administration spokesperson said, “DHS is taking the lead to enforce our laws to make sure human rights abusers, including U.S. businesses, are not allowed to manipulate our system in order to profit from slave labor. ‘Made in China’ is not just a country of origin it is a warning label.”
- China immediately opposed the action and accused the U.S. of interfering in China’s domestic affairs. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said the ban was based on “disinformation” and violates international trade rules. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters the U.S. import ban “destroys the global industrial chains and supply chains, and damages the interests of enterprises and consumers in various countries, including the U.S.” “This is a typical act of hurting others’ interests while diminishing one’s own interests. We urge some U.S. politicians to respect basic facts and stop interfering in China’s internal affairs under the pretext of Xinjiang.”

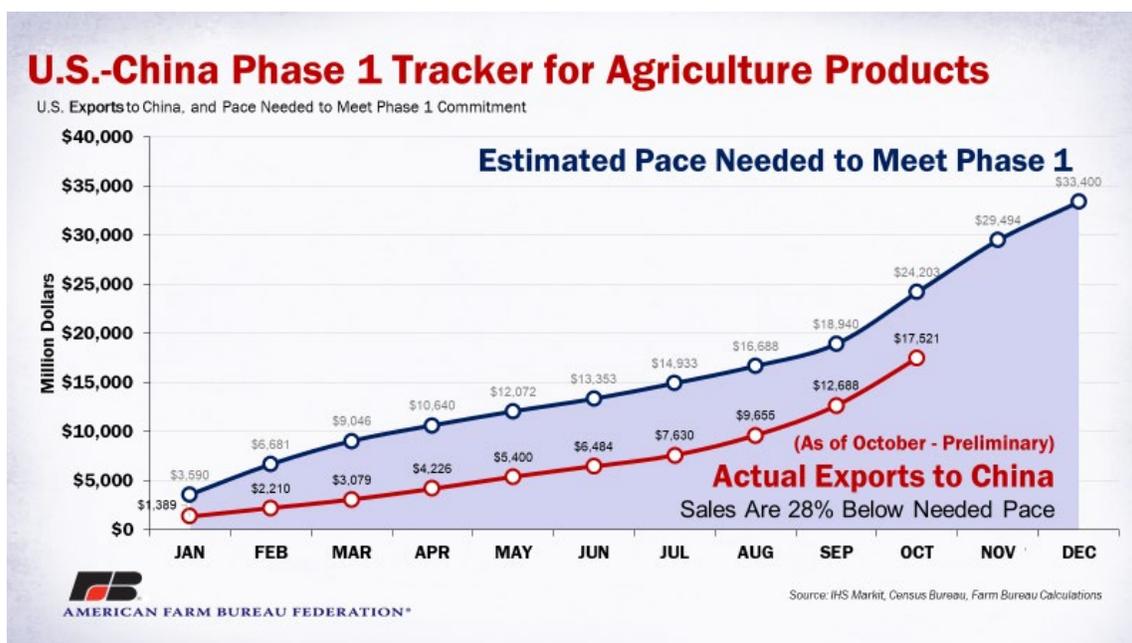


*Ken Cuccinelli, Acting
Deputy Secretary, DHS*

- Ways & Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA), trade committee Chairman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and oversight committee Chairman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) commented on the CBP decision to ban cotton and cotton goods from China’s Xinjian region saying in [a statement](#), “While today’s WRO on cotton produced by the XPCC is a step in the right direction regarding the deplorable, inhumane treatment of Uyghurs and other minority Muslim populations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, it is clearly not enough.”
- The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission said China tariffs imposed by the Trump Administration should remain in place as leverage to secure a better alternative for tackling China’s unfair trade practices. “Until we find a set of tools or see the right responses by China, we need to retain the tariffs,” said commission member Michael Wessel. Speaking at a virtual event to release the Commission’s annual report and recommendations to Congress, Mr. Wessel said the World Trade Organization “has been well behind the eight ball” in addressing China’s state-driven economic model. Another Commission member, President of the Economic Policy Institute Thea Lee, stated while a useful tool, tariffs are not the only tool the U.S. must employ to effectively to get China to change current unfair trade practices. The Commission’s [2020 annual report](#) warned Congress that China’s communist party “envisions itself atop a new hierarchical global order in which the world acquiesces to China’s worldview while supplying it with markets, capital, resources and talent.”

Phase One Agreement

- The Commerce Department’s most recent report indicates U.S. goods exports to China in October hit a monthly record of \$14.7 billion, yet that remains below the level needed to meet phase one commitments. *Politico* reports that the record level likely reflects an increase in U.S. farm goods purchases by China. Final 2020 figures will not be released until February.
- China’s year-to-date U.S. agricultural product purchases continue to increase as the gap on the lagging pace of purchases narrows. Based on October trade data, purchases are 28% under the level needed to meet the Phase One deal commitments. *(For further details on tracking select agriculture sectors and U.S. exports to China under the phase one deal see last page).*



U.S.-U.K. Trade Agreement

- No significant updates since British officials responded in recent weeks to criticisms of a hyper-focus on U.S. trade talks. U.K. trade minister Liz Truss said Britain will not prioritize a trade deal with the U.S. to the detriment of other bilateral trade negotiations as the U.K. exits the EU. Truss responded to questions

of whether Britain was overly focused on negotiating a deal with the Trump administration and said, “By no means are we entirely focused on the U.S., but it is our largest single-country trading partner.”

- As reported earlier, the U.K. is eager to engage with an anticipated Biden administration to expeditiously conclude ongoing bilateral trade talks, according to a British official, while acknowledging other U.S. trade priorities (e.g. China). The official acknowledged that despite considerable progress after five rounds of the talks, the two sides are “not just one round away from wrapping this up” and that further progress hinges on how negotiations progress with the new U.S. administration. Scheduling of another round of talks is unlikely until after the January 20th inauguration and the selection of a new USTR, which has historically taken several months.
- A number of other trade tensions with Europe that involve the U.K. may also determine further progress on a bilateral U.S. – U.K. trade deal including, EU civil aircraft tariffs, digital services taxes, and U.S. steel and aluminum section 232 tariffs. Perhaps more importantly on the U.S. side is the expiration of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) in June 2021, historically key to timely Congressional consideration of trade agreements. Under TPA or previously known as “fast track” authority, USTR would need to submit the signed U.S-U.K. trade agreement to Congress by April 2021 to receive consideration under TPA.

COVID-19 Developments

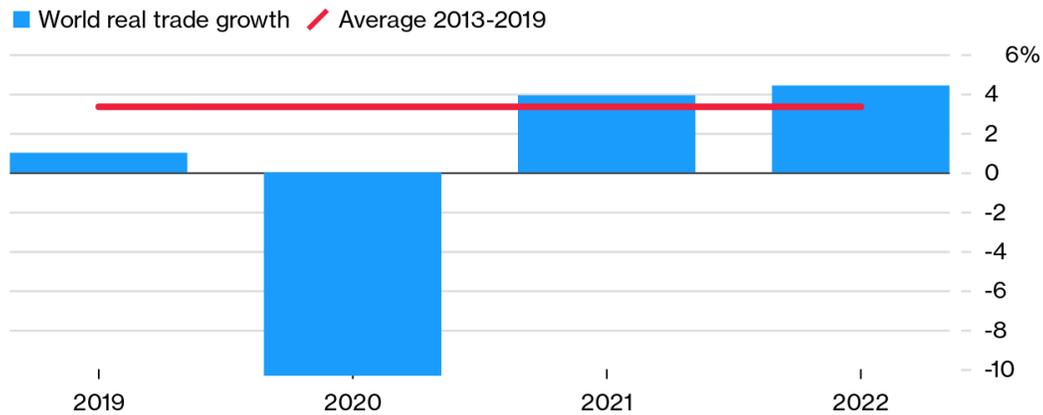
- The U.S. merchandise-trade (goods only) deficit widened in October as imports continued to surge, reaching a new yearly high, outpacing an increase in exports. The goods trade deficit increased to \$80.3 billion from \$79.4 billion in September, according to the Commerce Department. Imports rose by 2.2% to \$206.3 billion, the highest since September 2019, while exports increased 2.8% to \$126 billion.
- The overall deficit in trade of goods and services expanded to \$63.1 billion, compared with a median estimate for a gap of \$64.8 billion. Total U.S. exports and imports climbed to \$427 billion, the highest since February, but still below the \$469 billion at the end of 2019.



- Global trade is expected to expand gradually, rising on average by around 4.25% a year in 2021-22, after the sharp 2020 (10%), according to the OECD’s latest forecast. Contributing to the tepid recovery in trade were the lock-downs in several countries and COVID’s adverse impact on several sectors, such as travel and tourism. The OECD also reduced its 2021 global growth forecast to 4.2% as the resurgence of the coronavirus dramatically weakened the global recovery.

Long Haul

World trade is projected to continue recovering slowly



Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Bloomberg

USMCA

- USTR may announce an enforcement case this week regarding Canada’s dairy access commitments under USMCA according to a report in *Politico*. Several industry groups and lawmakers have sent letters to USTR and publicly complained that Canada has failed to properly implement new market access provision for U.S. dairy exports under USMCA. The USTR announcement would be the first enforcement action taken under the USMCA since it entered into effect on July 1. Under the complaint, the first step entails consultations between the two trade partners in which Canada would have 15 days to respond for any perishable items cited in the dispute, and 30 days for non-perishables, like powdered milk.
- Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) is leading a bipartisan group urging USTR Lighthizer to drop the proposal that would raise taxes for companies that make goods in Foreign Trade Zones in the U.S. In NAFTA, finished goods within U.S. Foreign Trade Zones did not qualify for duty-free treatment, even if manufacturers adhered to the rules-of-origin clause. While USMCA repealed this provision, Lighthizer is seeking to reinstate the old NAFTA rule through a USMCA technical correction bill. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that reinstating the provision would raise taxes on FTZ operators by \$2 billion over 10 years. The [letter](#) stated, “Supporting such a tax increase during a global pandemic and economic recession would harm American manufacturers across a wide range of industries, including the energy, electronics, automobile, and pharmaceutical sectors, among others.”

U.S.-Taiwan

- The U.S.-China Commission is advocating for deeper economic relations with Taiwan to guard against Chinese aggression. The Commission stated in its recently published [report](#) that Beijing’s implementation of Hong Kong’s national security law as well as its “intensifying military operations around Taiwan” suggest China has little concern for the international consequences. The report adds, “As Taipei moves to address these and other concerns of U.S. stakeholders, the United States is presented with opportunities to develop new export markets and forge a tighter trade relationship with one of the Indo-Pacific region’s most dynamic economies.”
- Taiwan Deputy Economic Minister Chern-Chyi Chen said he expects U.S. and Taiwan to continue to strengthen trade relations under a Biden Administration according to a report by *Inside U.S. Trade*. “Trade relations are inevitable,” Chen said. “We think that at the end of the day the Biden administration will pursue some trade relations via whatever form but there will be the need to intensify U.S. trade relations toward the world.”

- Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) has voiced her support for further engagement with Indo-Pacific countries, specifically advocating further commitment with Taiwan. As *Inside U.S. Trade* reports, Duckworth pointed to the U.S.-Taiwan Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue held last month stating, “I think we can push that more.” Duckworth also stated she said she was “pleasantly surprised” by the administration’s economic engagement with Taiwan.



Sen. Tammy Duckworth
(D-IL)

U.S.-Vietnam

- As previously reported, USTR has scheduled hearings for the Vietnam Section 301 investigation. The [hearing](#) “concerning Vietnam’s acts, policies, and practices related to the import and use of illegally harvested or traded timber” is set for Dec. 28. The deadline to request to appear and to submit associated testimonies is Dec. 10. The U.S. is quickly advancing the investigation and is in discussion with Vietnamese officials.
- As reported earlier, the federal [Labor Advisory Committee](#) expressed its support for USTR’s decision to launch a Section 301 investigation into Vietnam’s currency practices. The Committee also urged USTR to impose an 8.4% tariff on Vietnamese goods, estimated to equal to the amount of currency undervaluation found by the International Monetary Fund in 2018. Committee Chair, and USW President Thomas Conway said on behalf of the Committee, “Vietnam’s currency manipulation is the result of deliberate government policies that have been in place for many years and are designed to gain a competitive advantage for its exports.” “The harm to U.S. producers from these policies has grown substantially because of the shifting of supply chains from China to Vietnam in response to the imposition of tariffs by the U.S,” Conway continued.
- If the Commerce Department’s investigation finds Vietnam undervalues its currency, it could lead to U.S. duties on a wide range of Vietnam exports to the U.S. A final duty determination will be announced around March 16, 2021.

Section 232 Investigations

- The Commerce Department last week terminated the investigation into the national security implications of mobile crane imports at the petitioner’s request. According to a [statement](#), the Commerce Department stated, “After consideration of Manitowoc’s request for withdrawal, the Secretary determined that it was appropriate to terminate the investigation.” “The Department of Commerce will publish a Federal Register notice informing the public of this decision.” Wisconsin-based crane producer, The Manitowoc Company, Inc., filed a petition contending low-priced imports and intellectual property infringement had resulted in the closure of one of its two production facilities in the U.S. However, in a Sept. 8 termination request sent to Commerce, the firm cited “a changing economic environment due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic” in asking for termination of the investigation.
- The remaining two section 232 investigations involve transformer parts and vanadium. USTR has already indicated in the transformer parts case that Mexico will avoid any Section 232 tariffs. Amb. Lighthizer reported that Mexico agreed to create a “strict monitoring regime” for those exports composed of GOES to avoid Section 232 tariffs. In a [statement](#), USTR reported that the U.S. and Mexico concluded consultations via a mechanism established in a May 2019 agreement to “address the transshipment” of GOES “from outside the North American region into the United States through GOES-containing downstream products.” Under the agreement, Mexico will promptly create a monitoring regime and starting in fourth quarter, that regime will “closely monitor shipments of these products to the United States,” according to the statement.
- Under Section 232, the President must render a decision no later than 90 days after receiving the Commerce report to impose Commerce’s recommendation on trade restrictions or craft a different set of tariff or trade restrictions. Then the President has 15 days to implement any trade actions and 30 days to submit a report to Congress explaining the President’s action or inaction.

U.S.-Japan Trade Developments

- As reported earlier, Japan hopes that the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will encourage the U.S. to return to a multilateral trade framework. A senior Japanese diplomat said, “Regarding RCEP, it may create discussions in the United States, such as ‘is it okay that we are sitting out when a free trade network is created in the Indo-Pacific?’” Specifically, Japan urges the U.S. to rejoin TPP. Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi stated, “Japan thinks it is extremely important that countries like the United States join the TPP and further expand the momentum of free trade and make common rules fit for the 21st century,” he said. “In this regard, Japan will continue to exchange views and communicate with the United States.”

U.S. - Ecuador

- The U.S. and Ecuador will sign a phase one trade agreement this week according to reports. Ecuador said in a statement, “The Republic of Ecuador will host a U.S. Government delegation for the signing of a bilateral Phase One Trade Agreement on Tuesday, December 8 in Quito.” The deal is expected to “include provisions on trade facilitation, good regulatory practices, anti-corruption, and cooperation on small and medium-sized enterprises.”
- Ecuador is currently our 41st largest goods trading partner with \$12.5 billion in total (two way) goods trade during 2019. Goods exports totaled \$5.5 billion; goods imports totaled \$7.0 billion. The U.S. goods trade deficit with Ecuador was \$1.4 billion in 2019 according to [USTR](#).

U.S. – EU Trade

- The EU has set a new trans-Atlantic [agenda](#) that prioritizes joint action on the pandemic, economic recovery, climate change and setting of global standards. The EU also recommends an EU-U.S. Summit in the first half of 2021. EU President Ursula von der Leyen said, “When the transatlantic partnership is strong, the EU and the U.S. are both stronger. It is time to reconnect with a new agenda for transatlantic and global cooperation for the world of today.” In regard to trade, “The EU wants to work closely with the US to solve bilateral trade irritants through negotiated solutions, to lead reform of the World Trade Organization, and to establish a new EU-US Trade and Technology Council.”



Ursula von der Leyen, EU President

Civil Aircraft Disputes

- The U.K. continues efforts to find a legal loophole to levy retaliatory tariffs on the U.S. after it leaves the EU. According to reports, an EU official claims there would be no desire to help the U.K. and the USTR does not believe the U.K. has a sound legal basis for a share of the tariffs granted by the WTO. A U.K. trade department spokesperson said, “We want to de-escalate this issue with the U.S. and get these tariffs removed so we can move our trading relationship forward. These tariffs are in nobody’s interests and damage industry and livelihoods on both sides of the Atlantic.”
- On November 4th the EU imposed tariffs of 15% on U.S. aircraft and 25% on agricultural goods, totaling \$4 billion under the WTO ruling on U.S. subsidies for Boeing civil aircraft. USTR Robert Lighthizer argued that the EU tariffs were no longer valid as regulations in Washington State regarding Boeing business activities now comport with the WTO rulings. In October the WTO granted the EU the green light to move forward with \$4 billion in retaliatory tariffs against U.S. products under the civil aircraft dispute regarding Boeing. The U.S. countered immediately stating the EU has no legal basis to impose aircraft tariffs in conjunction with recent WTO’s arbitrator’s announced award level of \$4 billion on U.S. products.

French Digital Services Tax

- Senate Finance Committee ranking member Ron Wyden (D-OR) warned other countries against imposing a digital tax. He said in a statement, “France’s decision to collect a discriminatory digital services tax next

month represents an escalation against American employers and leave more U.S. industries open to unfair foreign taxes.” “France, and all countries considering DSTs, should abandon these unilateral measures, and focus their energies on the OECD’s multilateral process to reach a fair negotiated agreement. Otherwise, the U.S. will have no choice but to use every available tool to defend against these predatory taxes.”

- France began collecting digital services taxes by issuing invoices to U.S. companies, according to recent reports. The move to implement its 3% tax on companies with digital revenue of at least 740 million euros worldwide and 25 million euros is “earlier than France indicated.”
- While the U.S. agreed to suspend 25 percent tariffs on roughly \$1.3 billion worth of French goods in return for France’s delay in collecting digital services taxes, France’s actions will likely result in USTR imposing Section 301 tariffs sooner than Jan. 6 as originally set. “I think there could be pressure on USTR to at least threaten immediate imposition of tariffs” if the French government doesn’t suspend its collection reported *Inside U.S. Trade*.

U.S. – Kenya Trade Negotiations

- No significant updates since the recent conclusion of the second round of U.S.-Kenya trade negotiations. According to the American Chamber of Commerce in Kenya, Nairobi prepared [text](#) for several chapters for the round on legal and transparency issues; market access for goods; sanitary and phytosanitary measures; textiles and apparel; customs and trade facilitation; technical barriers to trade; services and investment; digital trade; intellectual property; small and medium-sized enterprises; government procurement; state-owned enterprises; and labor and environment. USTR aims to negotiate a comprehensive deal with Kenya prior to TPA’s expiration.

Transition 2020

- Representative David Scott (D-GA) has been elected as the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, replacing Representative Collin Petersen (D-MN). Scott will be the first Black chairman of the Agriculture Committee. Scott is a member of the New Democrat Coalition, which is generally pro-trade. G.T. Thompson (R-Pa.) will head the Agriculture panel as ranking member.
- President Trump nominated William Kimmitt, as a member of the USITC. Kimmitt currently serves as counselor to USTR and will serve a term set to expire in 2029, if confirmed by the Senate.
- Agriculture leaders met with the Biden transition team this week to discuss various issues. President of the American Farm Bureau Federation Zippy Duvall said, “It’s my responsibility to try to build a bridge of trust with the new administration that’s coming in.” Among the issues raised were the “poor and deteriorating” economic health of agriculture despite record government payments, a Covid-19 vaccine, trade agreements, biofuels, research, rural broadband, labor, infrastructure, sustainability and climate.
- As reported earlier, Katherine Tai is emerging as a likely contender for the next USTR after obtaining bipartisan Congressional support. Tai is currently the chief trade lawyer for the House Ways and Means Committee and is in conversations with the Biden transition team. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) said that Tai is the “most qualified candidate for the job. As the first woman of color to lead USTR, Katherine’s nomination would also be historic. Recently ten congresswomen from the Democratic caucus sent a letter to Biden expressing support for Thai as USTR. Other contenders with more political experience for the USTR position mentioned in recent press reports include California Rep. Jimmy Gomez, [Nelson Cunningham](#), the president and co-founder of McLarty Associates, and Chicago Mayor [Rahm Emanuel](#).



David Scott, House
Agriculture
Committee Chairman

Section 201 Investigations

Seasonal Produce

- The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) [officially](#) launched the fact-finding investigation into strawberry and bell pepper imports. USTR requested the USITC investigate strawberries and bell peppers under Section 332. The Commission will accept written submissions until Jan. 15. The statement says, “Specifically, the Commission is interested in receiving information about imports, principal source countries, and the impact of the imports on the domestic industry producing the like or directly competitive product.” The Commission is also interested in receiving information about the condition of the domestic industry, including production, employment, profits and losses, and other factors set out in section 202(c) of the Trade Act. To the extent practical, data and information should include the period 2016-2020 and any subsequent period.
- Separately, USTR has issued a [letter](#) to the USITC Chairman Jason Kearns requesting the agency investigate imports of cucumbers and squash and the effect on the domestic seasonal markets. The section 332 investigation (i.e. monitoring investigation) will exam the monthly price trends, including an analysis and comparison of the prices of domestically produced products and imported products.
- The USTR letter responds to a request from Georgia Republican Senators Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue to start an import monitoring action on cucumbers and squash imports from Mexico under Section 332 of the of the Tariff Act of 1930. In a letter the Senators noted that, “cucumbers’ import value is currently \$894 million, which is a 10% increase from September 2019 and August 2020. Squash’s import value is currently \$473 million representing a 27% increase during that same time period.” Both Loeffler and Perdue are facing run-off elections in January.
- The requested four “monitoring” investigations on imports of strawberries, bell peppers, cucumbers and squash align with USTR’s [Seasonal Produce Plan](#) which outlined the monitoring investigation stating, “USTR will work with domestic producers to commence an investigation by the International Trade Commission to monitor and investigate imports of strawberries and bell peppers, which could enable an expedited Section 201 global safeguard investigation later this year.” According to observers, the information obtained in the monitoring investigations may form the basis for launching section 201 global safeguard investigations in the near future.
- The Section 201 blueberry investigation by the USITC is underway and key milestone dates include the deadline for an injury decision on Feb. 11, 2021 and USITC injury report due to the President by March 29, 2021. Key dates in the Section 201 investigative process are noted in a [USITC fact sheet](#):
 - **January 12, 2021:** Hearing on injury
 - **February 11, 2021:** Vote on injury (Statute requires vote by 180 days (Feb. 26, 2020), but USITC invoked 15-day extension under “extraordinarily complicated” provision).
 - **February 25, 2021:** Hearing on remedy (if affirmative injury vote)
 - **March 19, 2021:** Vote on remedy recommendation (if affirmative injury vote)
 - **March 29, 2021:** USITC report and recommendation to the President (if affirmative injury vote).
 - **May 28, 2021:** Presidential announcement on action – (e.g. adopt USITC remedy recommendation, develop different remedy, decline to take any remedy action).

WTO

- WTO member states are proposing a prohibition on export restrictions for food bought for the World Food Program (WFP), a hunger-focused humanitarian branch of the UN. The proposal was launched by Singapore and is supported by and 39 in addition to the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia, Chile, Taiwan, Indonesia, and the United Kingdom. These members argue the proposal is necessary because the support provided by WFP is “made more urgent in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.”
- As reported earlier, the U.S. and China are extending the deadline to Dec. 31 for China to bring its agricultural tariff-rate quotas into WTO compliance. The U.S. successfully challenged the 2016 case, and this delay is the fifth extension request. The countries extended the deadline from Nov. 9 to “allow the United States additional time to evaluate China's compliance measures.”

WTO Leadership

- According to a report by *Washington Trade Daily*, South Korea has signaled its intention to withdraw its

candidate Yoo Myung-hee from the WTO Director-General race. South Korea has notified the U.S. of its decision according to sources and is expected to make it public “in the coming days.” After the postponement of the Nov. 8, another general council meeting has been scheduled for Dec. 17 to finalize the process. However, to date the WTO has not confirmed the report and it is unclear whether and when South Korea would officially signal withdrawal of its candidate for the top WTO leadership position.

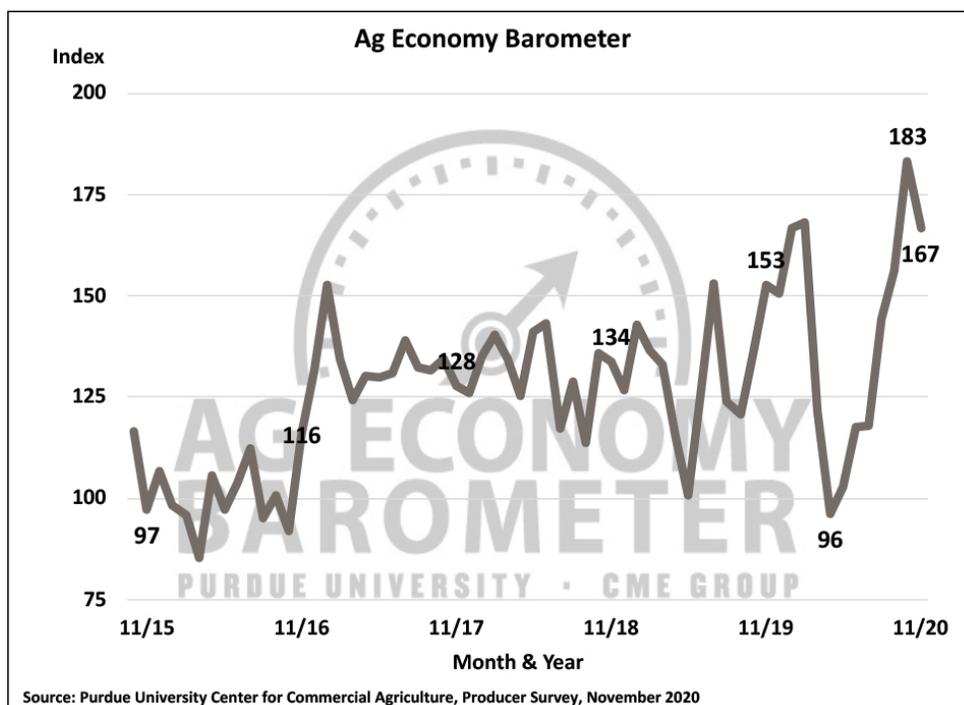
- The WTO Director-General selection remains on hold until early in the new year with local COVID restrictions in Geneva and an impasse over a consensus candidate. The WTO General Council chair, David Walker recently postponed a meeting to discuss the DG selection. Ambassador David Walker cited “the health situation and current events” in [announcing](#) he was postponing the meeting “until further notice.” “It has come to my attention that for reasons including the health situation and current events, delegations will not be in a position to take a formal decision on 9 November,” Walker said in his communication to members on Friday.

WTO Reform

- Progress on how to curb harmful fisheries subsidies has stalled as a final round of negotiations began this week. According to reports, members such as the U.S., EU, China, and India, are divided over issues of subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing, whether to use a capping mechanism, the type of special and differential treatment required, and which determinations of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing would trigger subsidy prohibitions. U.S. Ambassador to the WTO Dennis Shea said that the talks are “not encouraging.” Colombian Ambassador Santiago Willis said he will give a full report at the heads-of-delegations meeting scheduled to held before the General Council, on Dec. 14. Sources say they were not expecting a deal by the end of the year.

Ag Economy Barometer

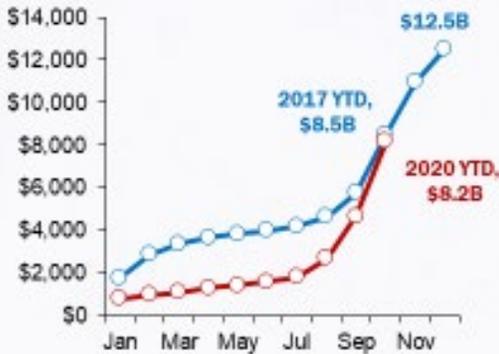
- The Ag Economy Barometer declined to an index of 167 in November, after reaching a record high of 183 in October. The 16-point decline was the result of weakened expectations for the future on the part of agricultural producers. November’s index of 167 was nearly equal to the pre-pandemic high set back in February but is 9 points lower than the sentiment reading taken just two weeks prior to the 2020 elections. The rebound in positive sentiment the past few months is tied to optimism for rising commodity prices, and expectations for higher farmland values, and farmland rental rates in 2021.



Agricultural Exports to China for Select Products

2020 Calendar Year Exports With Comparison to 2017
 "Baseline" Pace, Million Dollars

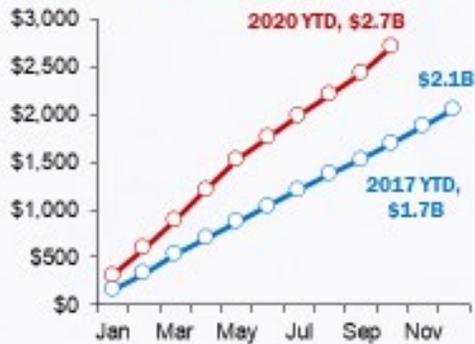
Oilseeds & Products



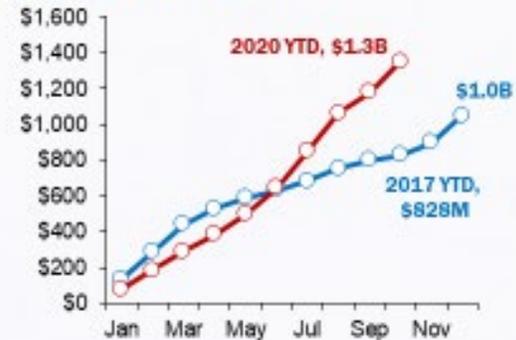
Grains & Feeds



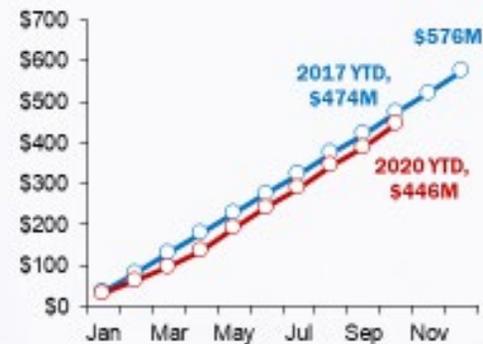
Livestock & Meats



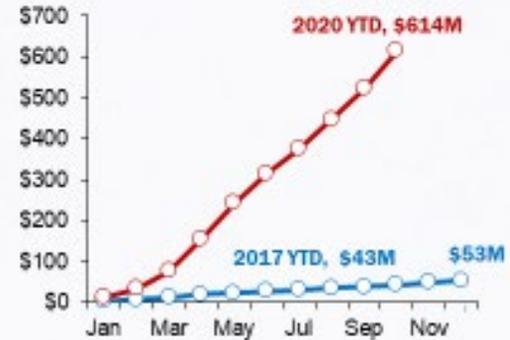
Cotton, Linters & Waste



Dairy & Products



Poultry & Products



Source: USDA, FAS GATS, Farm Bureau Compilations