

December 10, 2025

Trade Promotion and EU Tariff Rate Quota

ABC joined USDA Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, Luke Lindberg, on a T.R.U.M.P. Mission to the EU. These limited missions are designed to focus on countries with reciprocal trade agreements and new market access opportunities. The small group of agribusiness representatives discussed the implementation of the U.S.-EU Trade Framework deal signed in August; for almonds, a key focus is the proposed new tariff rate quota (TRQ) for tree nuts, including almonds. Once approved, the TRQ for 500,000 MT will result in a 0% duty for tree nuts imported by the EU. The trip to Brussels also provided an opportunity to expand relationships with the U.S. Mission, as well as to discuss ongoing concerns related to official controls implementation.



lower reciprocal tariffs from 39% to 15%.

Switzerland and Liechtenstein agreed to remove tariffs across agricultural products including fresh and dried nuts.

- The Trump Administration added more exemptions from reciprocal tariffs for certain agricultural products including coffee and tea, tropical fruits and nuts like cashews.
- The White House **announced** the extension of exclusions in the Section 301 Investigation of China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation. The 178 exclusions cover specific products like machinery, pipes, machinery and specific solar manufacturing equipment have been extended until November 10, 2026.
- The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) added exclusions from 40% tariffs for specific agricultural products from Brazil including beef, coffee, and tropical products.

For more information, please contact Lindsay at ltello@almondboard.com.

China Facility Registration Update

China has reopened the China Import Food Enterprise Registration renewal window for facilities' registrations expiring at the end of December that were closed on October 1. ABC has alerted all handlers that the window is now re-opened and to re-register no later than December 30, 2025. Handlers who wish to continue exporting almonds to China must make sure their FDA/[Export Listing Module](#) is up to date, and then process the renewals via cifer.singlewindow.cn. Please contact Keith at kschneller@almondboard.com for additional information.

Latest Tariff and Trade Updates

Following is a quick rundown of recent tariff and trade activities. ABC is closely monitoring the announcements, to identify where these framework agreements directly benefit almonds:

- The Trump Administration announced new trade framework agreements with [Argentina](#), [Ecuador](#), [Guatemala](#), and [El Salvador](#). The frameworks include lowering U.S. tariffs and improving market access for U.S. agricultural exports through reduced tariff and non-tariff barriers.
- The United States reached a trade framework agreement with [Switzerland and Liechtenstein](#) to

Japan Pre-Test Protocol Update

On November 4, ABC joined USDA and Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) in Tokyo for the first review of the Pre-Test Protocol which went into effect on April 1. Implementation has gone well, with minimal "glitches." MHLW was pleased with the positive response – over 98% of those shipping to Japan have signed on to the voluntary Protocol. Meetings were also held with the Japan Nut Association to review the Protocol, and ongoing efforts for verification of re-

conditioning of non-compliant consignments at Yokohama port. It is anticipated that research covering the verification of equipment for aflatoxin reduction will be shared shortly with Japanese authorities.

The Protocol initially established a 5% level for random import controls. Based on the positive results, MHLW has confirmed that the *level of import inspection starting April 1, 2026 will be 4%*. For more information, please contact Julie at jadams@almondboard.com or Tim at tbirmingham@almondboard.com.

USTR Ag Negotiator Update

The Senate Finance Committee advanced Julie Callahan's nomination to serve as the Chief Agricultural Negotiator with a 17-10 vote. A full Senate confirmation vote with a simple majority will be needed for confirmation. Committee members inquired on the impact of tariffs, U.S. competitiveness and pricing pressures, securing access for specific U.S. products, and negotiating priorities across key export markets like China, Japan and South Korea. Julie currently heads the Ag Affairs Section at USTR, and knows almond issues well. Her nomination received strong backing with more than 80 trade associations supporting her due to her expertise in agriculture.

Gulfood/Dubai in January this Year

On January 26-30, ABC will again be exhibiting at Gulfood in Dubai. This year, Gulfood is taking place in two locations. Please note that the USA Food Pavilion has moved from the downtown World Trade Centre to a new Expo City venue on the outskirts of the city. Gulfood is one of the largest international food expos in the world with more than 6500 exhibitors from 130 countries. We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new contacts at the show.

***Come see us at Gulfood!
Dubai Expo City
South Hall 7, Stand 42-61***

USMCA Renewal Hearings

The USMCA hearings occurred December 3-5, 2025, with a focus on agriculture on the first day of hearings. Several agricultural industry members raised the benefits and areas of improvement of the

USMCA free trade agreement to U.S. agriculture. At the end of November, a bipartisan coalition of 109 members of Congress sent a letter to USTR Jamieson Greer urging the Administration to hold on to the gains secured under USMCA since one third of all U.S. ag exports go to Canada and Mexico.

U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) and America First Trade Promotion Funding Announced

ABC attended USAEDC in November where USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service announced \$285 million available in funding through the America First Trade Promotion Program. Applications are due January 23; funds will be available for expenditure through September 30, 2028.

Upcoming Events & GTRA Activities

Dec 10-12	<u>The Almond Conference</u> in Sacramento
Jan 23-25	MEWA in New Delhi, India
Jan 25-30	Gulfood in Dubai, United Arab Emirates
April 24-26	Tuksiad Conference in Antalya, Turkey

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The Global Update is a publication by the Almond Board of California. For more information, please contact the Almond Board on 209-549-8262 or regulatoryissues@almondboard.com. The information reported in this document is correct to the best of our knowledge. The Almond Board of California welcomes the participation of all industry members and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, religion, age, disability or political beliefs.



*Wishing you a peaceful holiday season
full of friends, family and good cheer!!*

See you in 2026!