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Japan

Agricultural Situation

This Week in Japan

2001

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Report Highlights:

U.S. Exports of Citrus Remains Strong; Japan Lifts FMD Ban on Pork Imports from Final EU Member; In FA's First SBS for Rice, Contracted U.S. Rice Totaled 8,985 Metric Tons; In First OMA for Rice, FA Contracted 5,000 Metric Tons of Thai Rice; Japan's fluid milk output is forecast to slightly decline in 2001.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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This Week in Japan

An Update of Major News and Events from the Largest U.S. Agricultural Export Market

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- i U.S. Exports of Citrus Remains Strong:** Prices for U.S. grapefruits are up 15-20 percent, and despite concerns over avoiding excess inventory, sales are brisk and likely to reach 210,000 metric tons this year. While exports of lemons are likely to remain unchanged, this year, exports of U.S. fresh oranges are likely to go up by 7 - 8 percent, according to Tokyo's traders. (AgAffairs Tokyo)
- i Japan Lifts FMD Ban on Pork Imports from Final EU Member:** On May 29, MAFF lifted the temporary suspension of pork imports from Italy, the last country among FMD-free EU member countries subjected to MAFF's temporary import suspension in effect since March 24. The Ministry completed FMD risk assessments in each EU country. Imports from Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Austria were cleared on April 25 (see JA1037), Spain on May 2 and Germany/Belgium on May 15. Overall the two month ban had a limited impact on the Japan market due to Japan's inventories of frozen pork. (AgAffairs Tokyo)
- i In FA's First SBS for Rice, Contracted U.S. Rice Totaled 8,985 Metric Tons:** On May 30, Japan's Food Agency (FA) conducted its first Simultaneous Buy and Sell (SBS) rice tender for Japan Fiscal Year 2001 (April 2001 - March 2002). A total of 25,000 metric tons of foreign rice was contracted (22,500 tons for table rice and 2,500 tons of broken rice for processing). Contracted U.S. rice totaled 8,985 metric tons, or a 35.9 percent market share, and China accounted for 11,262 metric tons, or a 45.0 percent market share.
- i In First OMA for Rice, FA Contracted 5,000 Metric Tons of Thai Rice:** On May 9, the Food Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) conducted its first ordinary minimum access (OMA) rice tender. A total of 5,000 metric tons of Thai rice was contracted for use in Okinawa's Awamori (liquor) production and other food processing industries.
- i Japan's fluid milk output is forecast to slightly decline in 2001:** Japan's fluid milk output is forecast to slightly decline in 2001 due to reduced numbers of milking cows offsetting increased productivity, and NFDN and butter production are also forecast to fall. Following last summer's Snow Brand milk poisoning incident, the dairy industry faces the challenge of regaining consumer confidence in milk-based products. Consumers have increased consumption of solid milk products and non-dairy beverages. Japanese cheese imports will continue to expand in 2001 driven by increased consumption of natural cheeses, and U.S. cheese imports are forecast to increase to 4,500 MT.