

Doubling Exports

(Continued from p. 1)

trary and unfeasible" new government attestation statements.

The US-India dairy trade relationship "has become very unbalanced and dramatically tilted in India's favor due to these barriers," NMPF and USDEC said. India now exports nearly 10 times the value of dairy products to the US as the US exports to India, due "almost entirely" to the protections India has erected to thwart competition from US dairy products, while the US maintains "relatively open access on products of commercial interest to India such as casein."

India, the second most populous country in the world, presents a "large and unrealized market opportunity" for the US dairy industry. USDEC has estimated the potential market in India to be worth tens of millions of dollars in only the medium term, let alone the anticipated growth in a country that "continues to experience remarkable economic growth."

■ **China:** The US dairy industry currently faces a "great challenge" related to the dairy health certificate requirements being articulated by China. At present, it appears that China intends to impose stricter requirements on US dairy exports than on exports from other major dairy suppliers without any indication that US dairy products pose a greater risk to human health.

At this date, US dairy exports continue to be permitted entry to China "but no guarantee exists regarding the duration of that situation given the ongoing health certificate negotiations."

■ **European Union (EU):** Discussions with the EU over the past year have indicated that the current US testing and certification program for documenting US somatic cell count (SCC) levels is not in keeping with current EU SCC regulations.

NMPF and USDEC are "hopeful" that recent discussions between the US and the EU will lead to a process that will permit the US to find a resolution to this "vexing issue" that can permit trade to continue but "most importantly will not unduly burden US dairy producers with requirements wholly unrelated to food safety."

Pending Free Trade Agreements

NMPF and USDEC "strongly support" pending free trade agreements (FTA) with South Korea, Colombia and Panama. Of these, the FTA with Korea is "by far the most significant in importance" to the US dairy industry.

The expected benefit to the US dairy industry over the first several years of the Korea agreement is an additional \$380 million per year on average, NMPF and USDEC said.

The current Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) FTA does not at this

stage involve markets that would offer similar, or even significant positive, export opportunities for the US dairy industry, NMPF and USDEC said. Expansion of the current TPP negotiating partners to include "new and meaningful markets" such as Japan and sizable portions of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) "is encouraged to ensure that meaningful export markets will be opened for the US dairy industry."

NMPF and USDEC said the US dairy industry "maintains its strong support" for concluding the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations "on an ambitious basis, which would include deep tariff reductions in countries with high duties on dairy products" and the elimination of dairy export subsidies. However, a WTO agreement that does not address the current asymmetries in world dairy trade and disadvantages US dairy "should be opposed" by the US.

More Funding For MAP And FMD

NMPF and USDEC "strongly support" the continued full funding of USDA's Market Access Program (MAP) at \$200 million and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program at \$34.5 million for the life of the current farm bill and would encourage an effort to seek additional funds for both programs in the next farm bill.

The Food and Agriculture Export Alliance, of which USDEC is a member, also supports expanding the MAP and FMD funding in future appropriations, and also called for a "more coordinated, unified and proactive approach to trade" across USDA agencies.

Members of the Coalition to Promote US Agricultural Exports and the Agribusiness Coalition for Foreign Market Development also believe that the next farm bill should commit additional resources to the MAP and FMD. Organizations signing comments submitted by the two organizations include, among others, NMPF, USDEC, and Land O'Lakes.

Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) noted that high value food products comprise approximately 40 percent of US agricultural exports, but are often subject to high tariffs and, in addition, exports of these products are hindered by technical non-tariff barriers that make it "difficult or impossible" to satisfy requirements of importing markets. GMA "strongly supports" a continued effort to resolve outstanding SPS and technical issues.

GMA also offered several suggestions to consider as part of the NEI: new user-friendly tools for exporters; improved interagency cooperation to more easily navigate the US export infrastructure; opportunities to build "regulatory coherence" with key trading partners; and trademark protection and protection of related business confidential information. r

Franklin Foods Receives Patent For Technique For Making Lowfat Yogurt-Cheese Composition

Washington—The US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) this week awarded a patent for a technique for making a lowfat yogurt-cheese composition.

Inventors are Jon R. Gutknecht and John B. Ovitt. The patent was assigned to Franklin Foods, Inc., Enosburg, Falls, VT.

In one implementation of the invention, a process is provided for making a lowfat yogurt-cheese composition, including: providing a composition including a milkfat fluid; combining yogurt with the composition including a milkfat fluid to form a composition including yogurt and a milkfat fluid; combining milk protein with the composition including yogurt and a milkfat fluid; and forming a blend including the milk protein and the composition including yogurt and a milkfat fluid.

In another example, a lowfat yogurt-cheese composition is provided, including: cream cheese at a concentration within a range of

between about 75 percent by weight and about 15 percent by weight; yogurt at a concentration within a range of between about 40 percent by weight and about 10 percent by weight; and milk protein at a concentration within a range of between about 45 percent by weight and about 15 percent by weight.

Throughout the patent specification, the term "milkfat fluid" refers to a liquified composition including milkfat, which may as examples be directly derived from milk or reconstituted by hydrating a dehydrated milk product. In an implementation, the milkfat fluid may include cream.

The milk protein may include milk protein concentrate, whole milk protein, whey protein concentrate, casein, yogurt powder, dry cottage cheese curd, milk protein curd, baker's cheese, or a mixture.

The milk protein may help increase the thickness of the composition including a milkfat fluid in order to reduce any tendency for separation of the composition including a milkfat fluid into butterfat and milk protein phases to occur. r





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