

Contents

Policies.....	1
China's cabinet issues guidelines on African swine fever control	1
China considers establishing individual bankruptcy system	1
China cleans up rural environment	1
China pledges to further cooperation with UK as new PM said "pro-China"	1
Science, Technology and Environment.....	2
China moves up in global innovation ranking	2
Big opportunity to develop agriculture technology in China.....	2
Chinese scientists use gene-editing tech to help expand soybean planting area.....	2
Chinese researchers breed first hornless yaks in Qinghai.....	2
Farming robot makes its debut in Fujian	3
Smart pig farming gains steam in northeast China	3
The use of ripening rooms is gradually infiltrating in the Chinese fruit industry.....	3
Rural boom spurs city's development	3
China's Shandong province says fall armyworm a 'major threat' to autumn crop output.....	4
Trade and Business	4
Yili ranked as third most valuable food brand in the world and most valuable in Asia.....	4
Chinese pig and poultry producers recognised at Good Farm Animal Welfare Awards.....	4
China's vegetable output reached 700 mln tonnes in 2018	5
Dairy preferences diverge with age	5
Healthy snacks enjoy bumper sales	5
Online grocery shopping, the latest battlefield for e-commerce giants	5
Chinese consumers have strong appetite for imported products	6
Summer harvest called one of best	6
Beijing to stage 16th China Foodtech.....	6
Consumption upgrading heats up cold chain logistics.....	6
China to scrap foreign ownership caps on financial firms a year early	6
China approves wheat, soy imports from Russia.....	7
China Buying More U.S. Farm Goods Is a Dead End.....	7
Experts see great opportunities in China's economic future	7
Outbreak of African Swine Fever in China.....	7
China says African swine fever cases slowing	7
Swine fever countermeasures see continued success.....	8
Swine fever in China among risks to food markets - FAO/OECD.....	8
China's pig herd may shrink by 50% due to African swine fever.....	8
African swine fever outbreaks in July 2019	9
African swine fever restrictions lifted in July 2019.....	9

Policies

China's cabinet issues guidelines on African swine fever control

[Reuters, 03-07-2019] China will promote large-scale pig farming and reduce the number of small pig farms, the country's cabinet said on Wednesday 3 July in guidelines on African swine fever prevention and control.

The government will provide production subsidies to large-scale pig farms in areas heavily affected by the disease, China's State Council said in a statement on its website.

China has reported more than 120 outbreaks of the deadly disease in all of its mainland provinces and regions, as well as on Hainan island and Hong Kong, since it was first detected in the country in early August last year.

Click [here](#) for details

China considers establishing individual bankruptcy system

[CX, 17-07-2019] China's state planner announced measures Tuesday 16 July to speed up the exit of "zombie companies" from the market and proposed establishing a personal bankruptcy system.

This was the first time China explicitly proposed a plan to establish a bankruptcy system for insolvent individuals.

The guidelines released by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and a dozen other central government agencies call for an exit system for all types of market entities, including state-owned enterprises, aiming to create a smooth and cheaper exit path for failing companies.

Click [here](#) for details

China cleans up rural environment

[China daily, 11-07-2019] China's efforts to clean up the living environment for rural residents are producing encouraging outcomes, an official with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said on 11 July.

More than 80 percent of the country's villages have launched clean-up campaigns since the end of last year, disposing of over 40 million tonnes of garbage, 30 million tonnes of mud in ditches and ponds, and rubble in 40 million locations, said Li Weiguo, an official with the ministry.

The central authorities issued an action plan to clean up rural environment at the end of last year.

Click [here](#) for details

China pledges to further cooperation with UK as new PM said "pro-China"

[Xinhua, 25-07-2019] China said Thursday 25 July it will further advance ties and cooperation with Britain.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying made the remarks as Boris Johnson, who took office as the British prime minister on Wednesday, 2 July said his government would be very "pro-China" in an interview with the Hong Kong-based broadcaster Phoenix TV.

China stands ready to deepen mutual political trust, expand pragmatic cooperation with Britain in various fields including the Belt and Road construction, and boost people-to-people

exchanges so as to achieve sustained, stable and healthy development of bilateral ties, the spokesperson added.

Click [here](#) for details

Science, Technology and Environment

China moves up in global innovation ranking

[Xinhua, 26-07-2019] China is ranked 14th among more than 100 economies worldwide in a benchmark innovation ranking in 2019, moving up three spots from last year and strengthening its position as a leading innovative nation.

The 2019 edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) report, jointly released by the World Intellectual Property Organization, Cornell University and several other organizations on Wednesday, gave China an overall score of 54.82 out of 100 with top ranks in patents by origin, industrial designs and trademarks by origin, as well as high-tech and creative goods exports.

Of the top 100 science and technology clusters, China has racked up 18, second only to the United States.

Click [here](#) for details

Big opportunity to develop agriculture technology in China

[Xinhua, 23-07-2019] Agriculture technology is the biggest opportunity left in the world and China has a great potential to drive agri-tech innovation and adoption, an industry expert in California has said.

"Asia has the largest population increase in the world, which drives innovation. So, I think that there's more opportunity in Asia, particularly China, in the next 10 years," said Aaron Magenheimer, founder of AgTech Insight, a Salinas-based agricultural and tech consulting firm, in a recent interview.

The consultancy is currently tracking 3,000 digital agriculture companies around the world to make an impact on the world's food supply. It has been building relationships and networks in China for five years.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese scientists use gene-editing tech to help expand soybean planting area

[Xinhua, 05-07-2019] Chinese scientists have used gene-editing technology to create soybean mutants that can adapt to low altitude areas, paving the way for the breeding of new soybean varieties.

Scientists from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences used the CRISPR/Cas9 gene-editing tool to knock out two key genes that regulate soybean flowering, and adopted hybridization technology to create the mutants.

According to Han Tianfu, the leading researcher, soybeans are sensitive to photoperiod and when soybeans are transplanted to south China, they often faces problems including premature flowering, a shortened growth period and reduced yield.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese researchers breed first hornless yaks in Qinghai

[China daily, 11-07-2019] A Chinese research team has managed to breed the first hornless yak – an Adan yak in Northwest China's Qinghai province - after over 20 years' research.

The successful breeding news was announced a few days ago by a team of experts from the Lanzhou Institute of Husbandry and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Datong Yak Breeding Farm, which co-started the research in 1993.

Yaks with horns can hurt each other and damage shelters and facilities in large-scale intensive breeding, said the leading expert on the research team.

Click [here](#) for details

Farming robot makes its debut in Fujian

[China daily, 10-07-2019] While industrial robots have become a common sight in factories across eastern China, the country's agriculture sector is seen by some as a place where few technologies can take root, due to the high cost and sophisticated natural environment involved in growing food.

But a research institute and a startup based in Fuzhou, capital of East China's Fujian province, are determined to change the perception by jointly developing an agricultural robot.

The white, 5G-enabled, sensor-rich agricultural robot can move between two rows of leafy greens in a greenhouse, collect data about the plants, and feed it back to the control room.

Click [here](#) for details

Smart pig farming gains steam in northeast China

[Xinhua, 22-07-2019] A projector-like box installed with a camera moves along a monorail set up under the roof of a pig shed, while cameras at its base scan the pigs and gather key information on the livestock.

The system is in place in a pig farm of Jingqishen Organic Agriculture Co., Ltd. (JOA) in Fusong County in northeast China's Jilin Province.

The inspection cameras can gather information such as how long the pig has been raised, its weight and epidemic prevention status; they also detect the level of nitrogen in the shed to indicate when to clean up pig feces, saving unnecessary work. In the past, a keeper managed around 200 pigs, now the number has quadrupled.

Click [here](#) for details

The use of ripening rooms is gradually infiltrating in the Chinese fruit industry

[Fresh Plaza, 25-06-2019] In China there is a growing demand for cold storage and ripening rooms. More attention is given to the better preservation of fresh fruits and vegetables nowadays, not only because it can extend the shelf life of a certain fruit, but also because it can effectively protect their freshness. This better meets the higher requirements Chinese consumers have for fruits.

So, in order to maintain the fruits freshness and high quality, a good and better cooled environment is needed, though not all companies can invest in such a high-cost project.

Click [here](#) for details

Rural boom spurs city's development

[China daily, 26-07-2019] According to statistics released on July 17, the added value of Beijing's primary sector reached 4.94 billion yuan (\$717.7 million) in the first six months. The added value saw year-on-year decreases of 8.8 percent in 2016, 6.2 percent in 2017 and 2.3 percent in 2018.

The Beijing News newspaper quoted an expert saying the downward trend in the decrease rate is not an unfavorable signal, but a reflection of upgraded agriculture that forges ahead, driven by urban agriculture and eco-agriculture, or modernized efficient agriculture.

Rural tourism boomed, partially thanks to its improved quality, officials said. Rural tourism sites received more than 8.31 million visits in the first half of 2019, a year-on-year decrease of 3.2 percent, yet the per capita consumption was 70.5 yuan, a year-on-year rise of 1.5 percent.

Click [here](#) for details

China's Shandong province says fall armyworm a 'major threat' to autumn crop output

[Reuters, 30-07-2019] Agriculture officials in northern China's Shandong province warned that an infestation of the fall armyworm pest will spread further in the key corn-producing area, posing a "major threat" to autumn crop output in the region.

The insect has already caused damage in some areas in Shandong, China's third-largest corn producer after Heilongjiang and Jilin in the northeast, and the situation has developed rapidly, the Shandong Agriculture and Rural Affairs Bureau said in a statement.

Fall armyworm feasts in large numbers on the leaves and stems of many plant species, and can infest and damage hundreds of hectares of corn overnight.

Click [here](#) for details

Trade and Business

Yili ranked as third most valuable food brand in the world and most valuable in Asia

[PRNewswire, 18-07-2019] Yili Group, Asia's largest dairy firm, ranks third in "Top 50 Most Valuable Food Brands in the World", according to *the Annual Report on the World's Most Valuable Food and Soft Drink Brands* by Brand Finance released on July 10. The "Top 10 Most Valuable Dairy Brands" list published by the same institute shows Yili retained its most valuable dairy brand in Asia status, ranking second in the global dairy brand for two consecutive years.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese pig and poultry producers recognised at Good Farm Animal Welfare Awards

[PoultrySite, 03-07-2019] Compassion in World Farming held its annual Good Farm Animal Welfare Awards in Brussels on 27 June celebrating market-leading food businesses for their higher welfare policies and practices. Amongst the 50 awards presented, 15 Chinese companies received 17 awards between them, which are set to benefit the lives of over 10 million farm animals each year.

Compassion's awards programme in China started in 2014 and has continued to flourish, working with the International Cooperation Committee of Animal Welfare (ICCAW), to recognise the higher welfare achievements of Chinese pig and poultry producers. The awards reflect efforts being made in the breeding, housing, rearing and health management of the animals and are based on criteria that equate to stars, with five stars being the highest accolade achievable.

Click [here](#) for details

China's vegetable output reached 700 mln tonnes in 2018

[Xinhua, 18-07-2019] China's vegetable output was 700 million tonnes last year, up 1.2 percent year on year, according to a vegetable industry conference.

China's overall supply of vegetables was sufficient in 2018, with consumer demand increasing steadily, while supply was able to adjust to demand.

Last year, the vegetable planting area reached 19.96 million hectares, steady from 2017. The vegetable production value totaled 2.2 trillion yuan (about 320 billion U.S. dollars) and the net output was 1.2 trillion yuan.

The intellectual property protection of China's vegetable seed industry has made positive progress, with 6,665 vegetable varieties registered nationwide as of December last year.

Click [here](#) for details

Dairy preferences diverge with age

[China daily, 24-06-2019] In terms of consumption of dairy products, most Chinese adults mainly drink milk and yogurt, and tend to steer clear of solid dairy products like cheese and butter, while teenagers and kids appear to like cheese, a new report has found.

Most adult consumers don't like the taste of cheese, and they also worry about gaining weight and consider cheese expensive, according to the Chinese Milk Quotient report published by the China Dairy Industry Association and Dutch dairy producer Royal FrieslandCampina.

Nevertheless, kids born after 2010 like cheese the most. More than 23 percent of respondents said they love eating cheese. Only 1.6 percent of the age group said they don't like cheese, much lower than corresponding figure for older generations.

Click [here](#) for details

Healthy snacks enjoy bumper sales

[China daily, 16-07-2019] High-calorie biscuits, chocolate and candies are no longer as popular as they used to be. Quality-conscious young Chinese consumers are going for healthier snack food.

Locally-made snacks like nuts are enjoying a bumper year, spurred by the growing spending power of consumers and their pursuit of healthy and high-quality products.

From 2005 to 2014, the annual compound growth rate of snack foods in China was 22 percent. By 2020, the market scale of the sector is expected to reach 2 trillion yuan, a report by market research company said.

Click [here](#) for details

Online grocery shopping, the latest battlefield for e-commerce giants

[Pingwest, 01-07-2019] After getting everyone used to meal delivery in China, internet companies are going one step ahead, targeting those who still prefer to cook themselves: grocery delivery.

The new trend, championed by nearly every Chinese tech giant you can think of, is growing 40% year-on-year and could be worth 194.78 billion RMB or roughly 28.3 billion U.S. dollar, according to an iResearch report in 2017. Alibaba as well as other high-profile internet companies including Meituan and JD.com, are among the dominant players in this burgeoning industry.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese consumers have strong appetite for imported products

[Xinhua, 21-07-2019] Chinese merchandise firms plan to scale up their imports as Chinese consumers' demand for such products remains robust, an industrial survey showed.

About 9.7 percent of the 945 retail and wholesale enterprise respondents said they would increase consumer product imports in the next year, 2.5 percentage points higher than those planning to decrease their imports, according to a survey by the Ministry of Commerce.

Among the 1,059 surveyed consumers, 24.1 percent planned more purchases of imported products, with strong demand for food, maternal and infant products, cosmetics, watches and glasses, jewelry and passenger vehicles.

Click [here](#) for details

Summer harvest called one of best

[China daily, 20-07-2019] China this year has had one of its best summer harvests in recent years, and an overall good harvest of grain is likely for the whole year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said on 19 July.

Total grain production for the summer reached nearly 142 billion kilograms, an increase of 2.1 percent compared with last year and the same level as 2017, the year with a historically high summer yield.

Meanwhile, grain to be harvested in the fall is growing normally. The spread of the crop-eating fall armyworm, a species that entered China from Southeast Asia in January, has decelerated, laying a foundation for an overall good harvest this year.

Click [here](#) for details

Beijing to stage 16th China Foodtech

[Xinhua, 20-07-2019] The 16th China International Food Processing and Packaging Machinery Exhibition (China Foodtech) will be held in Beijing from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1, China Trade News reported.

The exhibition, which is held biennially, will showcase the most advanced technologies and equipment of the sector.

Known as the barometer of the country's food and packaging machinery industry, China Foodtech has attracted about 100 foreign exhibitors each year since it was launched in 1989.

Click [here](#) for details

Consumption upgrading heats up cold chain logistics

[China daily, 11-07-2019] China's cold chain logistics market is set to boom and is likely to become the most lucrative sub-industry in the logistics field thanks to the consumption upgrade and increasing demand for commodities like fresh food and medicine.

Major e-commerce players and logistics giants are accelerating efforts to establish self-operating cold chain warehouses and expand their cold chain delivery services in China.

Cold chain logistics refers to the use of temperature-controlled systems within an uninterrupted series of storage and distribution activities.

Click [here](#) for details

China to scrap foreign ownership caps on financial firms a year early

[Caixin, 02-07-2019] China will abolish caps on foreign ownership of securities, futures and life insurance firms in 2020, one year earlier than planned, Premier Li Keqiang said

Tuesday 2 July at the opening session of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions, also known as Summer Davos, in Northeast China's port city of Dalian.

Currently, China limits foreign ownership of any domestic securities, futures or life insurance firm to 51%, according to last year's negative list for foreign investment. The list, as well as this year's updated version, released Sunday, both said China would scrap the 51% cap in 2021.

Click [here](#) for details

China approves wheat, soy imports from Russia

[Reuters, 26-07-2019] China has approved wheat imports from the Russian region of Kurgan, the Chinese customs office said on Friday, bringing Russia a step closer to its goal of dramatically increasing grain exports.

It also approved soybean imports from all parts of Russia, the General Administration of Customs said in a separate statement on its website, having all but halted U.S. soy imports as the trade dispute between Beijing and Washington deepened.

China was the top buyer of U.S. soybeans until Beijing slapped a 25% tariff on shipments last year in response to U.S. tariffs on a range of Chinese products.

Click [here](#) for details

China Buying More U.S. Farm Goods Is a Dead End

[Bloomberg, 31-07-2019] With trade talks collapsing between the U.S. and China in Shanghai on Wednesday 31 July, there's even less hope of any resumption in American farm exports, which were once portrayed as the foundation of any agreement.

Had a trade detente materialized, those expecting a rapid return to the status quo on farm trade likely would have found themselves disappointed, anyway. The current tensions have dealt a lasting blow that could take decades to heal.

Click [here](#) for details

Experts see great opportunities in China's economic future

[Xinhua, 11-07-2019] China's economy will embrace a promising future, and that means great opportunities for the whole world, experts said Thursday 11 July at a conference hosted by British world-leading think tank Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

The conference, China's Economic Future -- Emerging challenges at home and abroad, brought together experts and business leaders from China, Britain, the United States, Australia, Italy and other countries.

In the sessions of the one-day event, experts and other attendees focused on the opportunities and challenges for China's future economy, economic reform, approaches to global economic diplomacy and technology-led industrial transformation.

Click [here](#) for details

Outbreak of African Swine Fever in China

China says African swine fever cases slowing

[Reuters, 04-07-2019] The number of fresh outbreaks of African swine fever in China has dropped this year and pig production is slowly returning to normal, its vice agriculture minister said, amid suspicions that the full extent of the disease is not being reported.

African swine fever is deadly to pigs and there is no cure or vaccine for the disease, which has swept across China, the world's top pork producer, since August last year.

Asked about reports of recent fresh outbreaks of swine fever, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Yu Kangzhen said China had seen only 44 new cases in the first six months of 2019.

Click [here](#) for details

Swine fever countermeasures see continued success

[China daily, 01-07-2019] China had recorded 143 African swine fever outbreaks by Sunday, 30 June and quarantine measures had been lifted on areas involving 131 outbreaks, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said on Monday.

China reported the first ASF outbreak in August in Shenyang, Liaoning province. The number of outbreaks for this year was 44 - a decrease from the latter half of last year - and the number of outbreaks recorded each month was less than 10 since the beginning of 2019 except in April, signifying progress in the control and prevention of the disease in China, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Yu Xinrong said at a news conference.

Authorities will continue intensified measures for AFS prevention and control, including banning feeding pigs with kitchen leftovers, improving coordination in disease control and prevention efforts between different areas and intensifying inspection at ports of entry, he said.

Click [here](#) for details

Swine fever in China among risks to food markets - FAO/OECD

[Reuters, 08-07-2019] The spread of a deadly pig disease in China that has disrupted the world's biggest pork market is one of the major risks to a well-supplied global agricultural sector, the FAO and OECD said on 8 July.

African swine fever was highlighted in the FAO and OECD's annual agricultural outlook for 2019-2028, which forecast broadly stable agricultural markets in the coming decade as productivity gains help output to keep pace with rising demand for food, livestock feed and crop-based biofuels.

The FAO/OECD forecast a 5% fall in Chinese pork output this year, while imports were forecast to rise to almost 2 million tonnes from an average 1.6 million tonnes per year in 2016-2018.

Click [here](#) for details

China's pig herd may shrink by 50% due to African swine fever

[Reuters, 30-07-2019] China's pig herd could halve by the end of 2019 from a year earlier as an epidemic of African swine fever sweeps through the world's top pork producer, analysts at Dutch bank Rabobank forecast on Tuesday.

The bank said China's herd, by far the world's biggest, was already estimated to have shrunk by 40% from a year ago, well above official estimates which have ranged from 15% to 26%.

The forecast comes amid industry speculation that the decline has been much worse than confirmed by agriculture officials, who this month launched an investigation of local authorities' efforts to contain the disease.

Click [here](#) for details

African swine fever outbreaks in July 2019

Date	Location	Details
5 July	Luchuan County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous	Click here for details
6 July	Gangbei District, Guigang City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous	Click here for details
11 July	Tuanfeng County, Hubei province	Click here for details
17 July	Jiajiang County, Sichuan Province	Click here for details
26 July	Kangping County, Liaoning Province	Click here for details
27 July	Xifeng County, Liaoning Province	Click here for details

African swine fever restrictions lifted in July 2019

Date	Location	Details
4 July	Ruoergai County, Aba Prefecture, Sichuan Province	Click here for details
9 July	Huinong District, Shizuishan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous	Click here for details
9 July	Yanshan County, Yunnan Province	Click here for details
26 July	Duyun City, Guizhou Province	Click here for details

This issue is compiled by SAIN Secretariat (UK). If you have any further enquiries, please contact Yuelai Lu at: y.lu@uea.ac.uk; for more information about SAIN, please visit: www.sainonline.org/English.html

To stop receiving emails from the SAIN Secretariat please email: y.lu@uea.ac.uk and we will remove you from our distribution list.