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Policies

China drafts law to combat illegal fishing, safeguard stocks

[Reuters, 28-08-2019] China has invited public responses to a draft law to prevent illegal fishing and depletion of coastal fish stocks, as current legislation is inadequate for sustainable development of the industry, the agriculture ministry said on Wednesday 8 August.

China is struggling to remedy damage done by overdevelopment of its rivers and lakes, with fish stocks suffering not only from overfishing, but also industrial pollution and habitat disruptions caused by dams and water diversions.

The ministry called for a more comprehensive protection system for aquatic biodiversity, especially on breeding farms, and efforts to halt illegal encroachment by fishing vessels on tidal flats and other protected areas.

Click [here](#) for details

China to remove soybean oil, rapeseed oil, palm oil import quotas

[Reuters, 07-08-2019] China plans to remove soybean oil, rapeseed oil and palm oil from its import tariff quota management, its commerce ministry said on 7 August.

The commodities were removed from a draft tariff quota management list posted on the official website of the Ministry of Commerce, which means they will not be subject to restrictions which may be exacted on other products such as wheat, corn and rice.

Click [here](#) for details

China's agriculture sector sees rapid growth over past 70 years

[Xinhua, 08-07-2019] China's agriculture sector has seen rapid growth over the past 70 years, with grain output expanding 4.8 times, according to a report from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

China's grain output grew at an average annual rate of 2.6 percent from 1949 to reach 658 billion kg in 2018, managing to feed around 20 percent of the world's population with only less than 9 percent of the world's arable land, according to the report.

The country increased the diversity of food supply by developing the breeding industry, with the output of aquatic products ranking first in the world since 1989, which stood at 64.6 million tonnes in 2018, 143 times higher than 1949.

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China's Sichuan province to remove restrictions on pig farming

[Reuters, 27-08-2019] China's southwestern province of Sichuan, the country's top pig-farming province, is removing some restrictions on hog production to stabilize supply after an epidemic of African swine fever reduced herds.

Sichuan produced more than 65 million pigs in 2017, according to official data, or more than 9% of the country's total, making it China's leading producer.

But many farms have been hit by African swine fever, an incurable disease that kills almost all pigs infected, which is still spreading through the world's leading pork market.

Click [here](#) for details

A recipe for good health

[China.org, 19-08-2019] Eat at least 12 varieties of food per day, and 25 per week. Consume at least 500 grams of vegetables and fruits daily, but no more than 25 grams of added sugar,

30 grams of edible oils and 5 grams of salt. Take 6,000-10,000 steps every day, and keep your waistline under 85 cm for men and under 80 cm for women.

These are some of the health tips provided in the Healthy China Action Plan for 2019-30, a document released by the State Council on July 15. The plan states that everyone should take primary responsibility for their own health.

The action plan was one of the three documents released by the Chinese Government to implement the Healthy China Initiative, which was elaborated in a central government blueprint titled Healthy China 2030 promulgated in 2016. It was subsequently made a national strategy at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in October 2017.

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China solicits public opinions on crop disease, pest control rules

[Xinhua, 12-08-2019] China's Ministry of Justice has published draft rules regulating the prevention and control of crop diseases and pests to solicit public opinions.

The draft regulation has clarified the responsibilities of governments at all levels and agricultural producers and operators for the prevention of plant diseases and elimination of crop-damaging pests.

It also introduces an all-round system to prevent and control crop diseases and pests, from monitoring and forecasting to emergency responses.

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China has over 1.2 mln "river chiefs" tackling water pollution

[Xinhua, 23-08-2019] China now has over 1.2 million "river chiefs," or stewards assigned for each waterway to tackle water pollution, according to a report.

The report on the enforcement of the water pollution prevention and control law was submitted 23 August to the ongoing bimonthly session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, for deliberation.

The law, which was revised in June 2017, stipulated a "river chief" system at the provincial, city, county and village levels in the country, with leading officials assuming responsibility for addressing water pollution, including resource protection, waterline management, pollution prevention and control, and ecological restoration.

Click [here](#) for details

Science, Technology and Environment

China has major influence on agri-tech development

[Xinhua, 01-08-2019] China plays a major role in pushing forward the "big" trends of agri-tech innovation globally with its own unique advantages, despite the challenges to produce more food to feed a huge population at home, an industry expert in Silicon Valley has said.

The "big things" in agri-tech industry include gene-editing, precision agriculture and vertical farming, in which China enjoys unique advantages, said Roger Royse, founder of the industry group Silicon Valley AgTech, in a recent interview.

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Measures to improve lives, boost demand

[China daily, 01-08-2019] China will take more measures, including improving services for people's daily lives and encouraging cultural and tourism consumption, as part of efforts to

better meet the need for consumer sector upgrades to further unleash the potential of domestic demand.

In response to the trends in commercial transformation and consumer upgrades, the use of technologies such as big data will be encouraged, and individualized spending on goods and services, smart consumption and other new business models will be boosted.

E-commerce will be introduced to more rural areas and weak links in cold chain logistics for farm products will be strengthened at a faster pace.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese agriculture's eco-transformation

[Eco-business, 12-08-2019] Small-scale eco-farmers are key to the government's push for sustainability. Can they overcome the challenges?

Experts say the government should support small-scale eco-farmers with funding or subsidies. Luo Shiming, formerly dean of the South China Agricultural University, said: "There's no lack of money in government. The question is how it's used. The authorities need to intervene to control market failures such as disparities between costs and prices."

One of the main reasons consumers won't pay the extra for green products is a lack of confidence.

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AI used to fight drug resistance

[China daily, 14-08-2019] Scientists in the United Kingdom and China have announced plans to use artificial intelligence on chicken farms in order to combat the problem of antibiotic resistance in both farm animals and humans.

The new initiative will use machine learning to find ways to track and prevent disease on poultry farms, reducing the need for antibiotic treatment in chickens and therefore lowering the risk of antibiotic-resistant bacteria transferring to people.

The research will be led by animal health experts from the University of Nottingham and Nimrod Veterinary Products in the UK as well as two Chinese partners—New Hope Liuhe in Chengdu and the China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment.

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Internet, data boosting agriculture

[China daily, 30-08-2019] AirAG Technology Ltd, a company focusing on providing agricultural data service, has launched an e-commerce platform for agricultural products, based on its abundant and efficient collection of agricultural big data.

The newly launched platform will help provide an innovative and constructive solution to tracing agricultural products to their source.

Based on its self-innovated smart facilities, including the world's first wireless agricultural panoramic monitoring product called AGTrace, AirAG has provided services to nearly 2,000 agricultural planting bases nationwide.

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China's water environment improving, but not optimistic

[Xinhua, 25-08-2109] The water quality of China's major rivers, lakes and coastal waters is improving, while in general, the water ecology is not optimistic, an official report showed.

The report was made by an inspection team tasked with examining the enforcement of the water pollution prevention and control law, under the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature.

From April to June, the law enforcement inspection team was divided into four groups and went to eight provinces, including Sichuan, Jiangsu, Hunan, Hebei, Guangdong, Anhui, Yunnan and Guizhou, to carry out law enforcement inspections.

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‘Toilet Revolution’ Gets \$1 Billion Funding Boost

[Caixin, 21-08-2019] Smelly pit toilets in China’s poor villages have become a symbol of the gap between life in the country’s cities and countryside.

Now, the central government has pledged an additional 7 billion yuan (\$992 million) to support China’s so-called “toilet revolution,” which is yet to make significant inroads into many rural areas.

The headline effort to improve toilet sanitation and access began in 2015, and in 2018, the annual meeting of China’s national legislature waved through a three-year action plan to refocus on household toilets in underdeveloped areas in the nation’s central and western regions.

Click [here](#) for details

First National Park Forum opens in northwest China

[Xinhua, 19-08-2019] The first forum on national parks opened Monday in Xining, capital of northwest China's Qinghai Province.

The two-day event attracted more than 450 representatives of regulatory agencies, experts and scholars at home and abroad to discuss topics including construction and management of nature reserve areas, biodiversity protection, and the future of natural heritage sites.

The establishment of a national park system is crucial to the protection and maintenance of the ecological system and build-up of harmony between man and nature, said Zhang Jianlong, head of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

China has approved the pilot plans for a spate of national parks.

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Trade and Business

China's major milk-producing region to upgrade dairy industry

[Xinhua, 23-08-2019] Northern China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the country's major milk-producing area, has released a plan to upgrade its dairy industry, aiming to see its annual production of raw milk reach 10 million tonnes by 2025.

The region will work to promote the construction of first-class bases for forage and milk sources, leading the development of the country's dairy industry, according to the plan.

Inner Mongolia recorded more than 2.3 million cows in stock and an output of over 6.9 million tonnes of raw milk in 2018, both among the largest in China.

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China's rural cooperatives report rising sales in H1

[Xinhua, 04-08-2019] China's rural supply and marketing cooperatives in the first half of 2019 saw their sales reach 2.22 trillion yuan (about 319.6 billion U.S. dollars), up 6.6 percent year on year, the latest data showed.

During the period, aggregate profits of enterprises in the system stood at 18.31 billion yuan, up 3.1 percent year on year, according to the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC).

Enterprises in sectors of agricultural capital, farm produce and consumer goods saw their aggregate profits increase steadily, ACFSMC data showed.

Click [here](#) for details

China's rural e-commerce registers rapid growth in H1

[China daily, 12-08-2019] The e-commerce sector grew rapidly in China's rural areas in the first half of 2019, official data showed.

Online retail sales in rural areas totaled 777.1 billion yuan (\$113.6 billion) in H1, according to a statement from the Ministry of Commerce.

The reading, surging 21 percent year-on-year, was 3.2 percentage points higher than the nationwide growth rate.

Click [here](#) for details

Online fresh food trend sweeps farmers' markets

[Xinhua, 25-08-2019] Online grocery platforms that can deliver food at the touch of a button, 24 hours a day, are springing up and booming in Chinese cities, especially after the country's e-commerce giants like Alibaba and JD.com poured money into supply chain and logistics to lead the market.

Data from consulting firm iResearch shows China's fresh food e-commerce trading volume exceeded 200 billion yuan (28.4 billion U.S. dollars) last year, and the number is expected to soar to 700 billion in 2022, representing huge market potential.

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Chinese frozen food industry gathers strength

[China daily, 19-08-2019] Demand for frozen food continues to grow in China as young urbanites have little time to cook complicated cuisines, due to hectic lifestyles and work-and life-related pressures, industry experts said.

The market for frozen food will likely see continuous growth, with the shut-in culture becoming more prevalent in cities, they said.

In the next few years, the market scale of frozen rice-and flour-based food like dumplings, glutinous rice balls, and traditional Chinese rice-puddings, in addition to frozen hotpot materials, frozen meat-, poultry-, fish - and vegetarian-based meals, will grow steadily, they said.

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Jobs grow on leisure agriculture in east China

[Xinhua, 07-08-2019] Leisure agriculture and rural tourism have helped generate many new jobs in east China's Anhui Province, with 736,000 people employed in the first half of this year, authorities said.

From January to June, Anhui received 110 million tourists coming for its leisure agriculture industry, up 12.8 percent year on year. The industry generated 49 billion yuan (about 6.95 billion U.S. dollars) in revenue, a year-on-year increase of 14.1 percent.

The provincial government held a series of activities to promote the reputation of its leisure agriculture and rural tourism, including selecting the best leisure farms and tourist routes, as well as hosting farming festivals.

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Rural tourism in metropolis sees significant boost

[China daily, 08-08-2019] The bed-and-breakfast industry has emerged in rural Chengdu in recent years, becoming a new window for countryside tourism and an engine for local rural revitalization.

Chengdu has developed 10 rural tourism development modes, including cultural creativity plus countryside, intangible cultural heritage tourism, vacations in mountainous regions and motor home holidays.

On the first list of China's key rural tourism villages, released by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism on July 28, four were from Chengdu.

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China's top feed producer completes construction at its first pig farm overseas

[Reuters, 25-08-2019] China's top feed producer, New Hope Liuhe, said on Sunday 24 August, it had completed construction of its first overseas pig farm in Vietnam, seeing potential demand growth in a major market devastated by a severe African swine fever outbreak.

The pig farm in Binh Phuoc province, which has an annual production of 300,000 pigs, is one of three that New Hope Liuhe, the agribusiness subsidiary of New Hope Group, invested in recently in the Southeast Asian nation.

The farm is expected to start getting pigs in November and eventually have an inventory of 13,500 Hypor-breed sows produced by Holland's Hendrix Genetics. It will come online at a time when Vietnam has seen significantly reduced pork supplies.

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China to expand pork imports, release meat from reserves to boost supplies

[Reuters, 29-08-2019] China's commerce ministry said on Thursday 29 August it will seek to boost pork imports and also release frozen pork, beef and mutton from state reserves in "due course" to increase the supply of meat in the market.

The comments come as pork prices in the world's top consumer of the meat hit a record after an epidemic of African swine fever swept through the country's pig herd, killing millions.

Imports of the meat are already up 36% in the first seven months of this year, and analysts expect them to double from 2018 levels in 2020.

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China is eating more beef than ever now that pork is so expensive

[Bloomberg, 24-08-2019] China's beef imports soared to a record last month as a surge in pork prices because of African swine fever spurs consumers to look for alternative meats.

Beef purchases jumped 83% to 152,213 tons in July from a year ago, according to Chinese customs data. Imports of pork also surged, rising 107% on the year to 182,227 tons.

Chinese consumers may continue to eat more beef and other meats after wholesale pork prices in the country hit a record this month.

Consumption of beef has also been on a rising trend thanks to increasing household incomes.

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Hong Kong billionaire to buy UK pub group Greene King

[FT, 19-08-2019] Hong Kong billionaire Victor Li has swooped to acquire Greene King, taking advantage of the weak pound to strike a £4.6bn deal for the UK's biggest listed pubs and brewery group.

CK Asset Holdings has agreed to buy the 220-year-old UK pubs group for 850p per share, valuing it at £4.6bn including net debt. Shares in Greene King jumped more than 50 per cent.

People briefed on the deal said his investment group was undaunted by the economic prospects for the UK following its impending departure from the European Union, saying it was taking a long-term view of British consumer spending.

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Over 3,000 overseas companies taking part in this year's CIIE

[China daily, 02-08-2019] More than 3,000 foreign companies from 150 countries and regions have confirmed their participation in the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) in November, said Sun Chenghai, the deputy director of the CIIE bureau.

The General Administration of Customs has established a special customs office at the expo venue, the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai, to supervise clearance for foreign exhibits and provide one-stop services for the expo's exhibiting companies.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has delegated the approval of imports and exports of endangered aquatic plants and animals to Shanghai municipality.

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Aldi and Costco test China's retail appetite with fresh approaches

[Nikkei, 06-08-2019] The Aldi supermarket in Shanghai's Jing'an district draws a fair crowd of homemakers and office workers during a weekday lunch hour.

The store offers a mix of local fare, such as cold noodles, and imports from the discount grocery chain's home country of Germany.

The store represents a foothold by one of the newest Western supermarket chains seeking to make inroads in China, a vast market that has proved difficult for other multinational retailers to operate profitably in at scale.

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Chilean fruit growers seek to conquer Chinese palate with pears

[China daily, 17-08-2019] Chilean fruit growers recently celebrated the country's first shipment to China of four kinds of pears they hope will win over local consumers.

Pears bound for China are shipped by sea, and it takes some 30 days to arrive under normal conditions.

Chilean producers told Xinhua on the tour that they plan to carry out a study on the Chinese market to determine which pears are the most popular, and increase the supply accordingly.

During the 2017-2018 season, Chile shipped 385,516 tons of fresh fruit to China, 66 percent more than the 2016-2017 season, according to Chile's Association of Fruit Exporters.

Cherries are the country's top fruit export to China, accounting for 41.4 percent of the total.

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Outbreak of African Swine Fever in China

Chinese hog farmers take risks to restock despite widespread African Swine Fever

[USDA, 22-07-2019] African Swine Fever (ASF) is endemic across China, but high pork prices will incentivize many Chinese hog farmers to restock or expand, despite the significant animal health risks posed by ASF. The overall herd size is estimated to decrease by 21 percent in 2019, then further decrease another 10 percent in 2020. While pork consumption is estimated to fall at least 9 percent in 2019, continuing demand for pork will drive a sharp increase in imports, up 60 percent year-on-year. Frozen domestic pork stocks and imports have insulated domestic price increases in the short term. The combined effects of smaller frozen stocks and an uncertain slaughter output between now and Chinese New Year in early 2020, increases the likelihood of significant consumer price hikes in early 2020. ASF will also contribute to increased beef demand (along with other animal proteins) in China. Despite soaring beef demand in China, U.S. beef imports remain constrained by market uncertainty, China's retaliatory tariffs, and other factors.

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China pig farmer profits soar after disease wipes out third of herd, boosts prices

[Reuters, 20-08-2019] Pig breeders in China who have managed to keep fatal African swine fever off their farms since outbreaks began a year ago are now set to reap rewards, with some in line for record profits of \$200 (164.87 pounds) per hog thanks to soaring prices.

The virus has reached every province of the world's top pork producer. The pig herd shrank a third in July from the same month a year ago, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, though many observers believe half the herd is already gone.

National average hog prices passed the 2016 record of 21 yuan per kilogramme earlier this month to hit 24.6 yuan (2.87 pounds) per kg on Aug. 19, according to data from Shanghai JC Intelligence Co Ltd.

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State Council stresses stabilizing hog production, ensuring pork supply

[Xinhua, 21-08-2019] China's State Council decided on 21 August to step up efforts to stabilize hog production and ensure pork supply following the effects of African swine fever on the industry.

Subsidies to farms with culled pigs will be dispensed more timely, and major hog producers and farm owners will receive more support in expanding their herds, according to a statement released after a State Council executive meeting.

Local authorities should promptly scrap bans and limits on hog raising except those stipulated in laws and regulations, and large-scale farming should be promoted.

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African swine fever outbreaks in August 2019

Date	Location	Details
1 August	Honghu City, Hubei Province	Click here for details
8 August	Fangchenggang City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous	Click here for details
26 August	Yongshan County, Yunnan Province	Click here for details

African swine fever restrictions lifted in August 2019

Date	Location	Details
9 August	Shapotou District, Zhongwei City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous	Click here for details
15 August	Pingan District, Haidong City, Qinghai Province	Click here for details
15 August	Bobai County, Luchuan County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous	Click here for details
15 August	Pingtang County, Sandu County, Guizhou Province	Click here for details
23 August	Tuanfeng County, Huanggang City, Hubei province	Click here for details
26 August	Guigang City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous	Click here for details
27 August	Menghai County, Yunnan 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

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