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Policies

China is eliminating 'Hukou' restrictions for some cities

[Caixin, 09-04-2019] China's state planner is requiring local governments to lift household registration restrictions for people who live and work in some second- and third-tier cities to advance reform of the residency system for migrants.

China will eliminate all restrictions for household registration, or "hukou," for all cities with an urban population of 1 million to 3 million, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said in a notice 8th April.

Based on their urban populations in 2016, cities such as Wuxi and Ningbo in eastern China would qualify for the relaxed residency rules. The NDRC said governments of cities with an urban population of 3 million to 5 million should also ease restrictions for migrant workers who have lived there for more than five years.

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China's grain output expected to stay stable

China's grain output is expected to remain stable this year, according to a report released Saturday.

The total sown area of rice, wheat and corn will stay around 95.87 million hectares, while that for soybeans is expected to increase by about 666,666 hectares, according to the report released at the 2019 China Agricultural Outlook Conference sponsored by the Agricultural Information Institute under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

The report forecast farm produce prices to keep steady overall, but predicted greater risks of market fluctuations for certain types of products, including pork.

Pork prices are likely to see drastic increases in the second half, with annual imported pork to grow over 40 percent from last year to reach around 1.7 million tonnes, the report said.

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China aims marked cut in water usage by 2020

[Xinhua, 20-04-2019] China aims to substantially reduce water consumption by 2020 to tackle a supply bottleneck that could undermine the environment and sustainable economic growth.

By next year, water usage per 10,000 yuan (about 1,492 U.S. dollars) of gross domestic product will be 23 percent less than in 2015, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

The country also aims to cap water consumption below 670 billion cubic meters by 2022 and 700 billion cubic meters by 2035.

Click [here](#) for details

China urges local governments to shell out resources to treat soil pollution

[Reuters, 22-04-2019] China has urged local authorities to invest more to clean up contaminated agricultural land, with some regions still failing to take responsibility for dangerous levels of soil pollution, the country's agriculture ministry said.

Soil pollution has emerged as one of China's biggest environmental challenges, with nearly a fifth of the country's farmland exposed to various degrees of contamination by pesticides, mining residues, chemical waste or toxic heavy metals such as cadmium, according to a government survey.

China drew up an action plan to tackle the issue, and a new law came into effect at the start of this year. However, the government has struggled to figure out how to pay for a nation-wide treatment program that could cost hundreds of billions of dollars.

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Science, Technology and Environment

Efficiency up, pollution down in farming sector

[China Daily, 08-04-2019] China has made great progress in promoting agriculture over the past several years, resulting in reduced environmental pollution, according to a report released by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

The use of synthetic fertilizers in China started to decline after reaching a peak in 2015, with about 59 million metric tons used in 2017, which is a decrease of more than 1.6 million tons from 2015, the report said.

The use of pesticide, another major source of environmental pollution in agriculture, started to decline in 2015. Nearly 1.7 million tons were used in 2017, a decrease of more than 8 percent compared with 2014.

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China sets up rural waste recycling demo base

[Xinhua, 04-04-2019] China has set up a national demonstration base for rural waste treatment and recycling in the eastern China province of Zhejiang to showcase the benefits of high-tech waste disposal.

The demo base uses the whole township of Lincheng for the program -- from garbage classification to bio-mass treatment.

The township produces 3 to 5 tonnes of waste a day, which can be reduced to 800 kg after going through bio-mass disposal.

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Chinese scientists use rice straw to desalinate seawater

[Xinhua, 18-04-2019] Solar steam generation is considered to be a promising strategy for purification of wastewater and seawater. Scientists from the Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology and Engineering, Chinese Academy of Sciences have developed a solar steam-generation device from wasted rice straw.

The device is composed of a photothermal membrane and water pumps. The leaves of rice straw are carbonized and composited with bacterial cellulose to function as a photothermal membrane and the lower culms of straw are designed as water pumps.

The rice straw-derived solar still achieves a daily clean water yield of 6.4 to 7.9 kg per square meter on sunny days and 4.6 to 5.6 kg on cloudy days. The water yielded reached safe drinking water standards with over 99.9% of saline ions removed.

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Smart farming takes root in Chinese agricultural province

[Xinhua, 13-04-2019] Satellites, drones and pest-detecting cameras are making their way into rice paddies in China's major farming province as the country modernizes its agriculture, experts said.

A satellite can produce images of a 200 square km field in just half an hour and offer information such as growth, yield and seedling emergence rate of the crops, said Qu Chunlai, with Changguang Satellite Technology Co. Ltd.

The company's Jilin-1 satellite are widely applied in agriculture and forestry in northeast China's Jilin Province.

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Chinese "Green Super Rice" promotes sustainable agriculture development

[Xinhua, 02-04-2019] Chinese agriculture scientists have bred new rice varieties named "Green Super Rice (GSR)" for developing Asian and African countries to reduce hunger and increase local farmers' income.

Supported by the Chinese government and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the project has bred 78 GSR varieties for 18 countries with a total grown area of 6.12 million hectares since its launch in 2008, hoping to benefit 30 million resource-poor smallholder rice farmers in Asia and Africa.

With a better tolerance for tough conditions, GSR varieties can achieve an average 0.89-1.83 tonnes increase per hectare, which means 230.9 dollars per hectare for a rice farmer, according to a survey conducted in the Philippines.

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Hybrid rice seeds yielding hope

[China Daily, 14-04-2019] Under the scorching sun, fields displaying 31 major hybrid rice varieties grown in Belt and Road countries attracted more than 700 rice experts and businesspeople on Friday 12 April to the golden paddy-themed national park in Sanya, Hainan province.

Hybrid rice, which is produced by crossbreeding different kinds of rice, was developed by Chinese scientists led by Yuan in 1974. Two years later, China began the widespread growing of hybrid rice, also known as super rice.

With current acreage amounting to 16 million hectares, or about 53 percent of China's rice acreage, and rice output having grown from 6 metric tons per hectare in the 1970s to 15 metric tons now, hybrid rice is known as the "fifth invention in the world".

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Intercropping stretches Hainan rubber farmers' income

[CGTN, 08-04-2019] Cultivation of traditional Chinese medicine is helping rubber farmers' of Hainan Island cure their economic woes.

Facing the consequences of crashing natural rubber prices by more than 50 percent, farmers are also reeling under the catastrophic impact of growing a single crop for years, called monocropping.

Natural rubber prices are showing no signs of recovery. It's expected to remain low in 2019, after a projected 20 percent year-on-year decline in 2018, a World Bank estimate predicted.

In a bid to resolve the dismal scenario, researchers from Stanford, McGill University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), identified two Chinese medicinal plants as a part of the intercropping initiative.

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Trade and Business

China, Britain should enhance exchanges, mutual learning, promote win-win cooperation

[Xinhua, 02-04-2019] China and Britain should enhance exchanges and mutual learning, and promote win-win cooperation, Chinese Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming has said.

China and Britain differ in social system, history, culture and development stage, but both have created time-honoured civilization and splendid culture, said the Chinese diplomat, stressing that the two countries should strengthen cooperation as the world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century.

As China deepens reform and opens up wider in the years ahead, there will be more opportunities for Britain, he said.

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China's farm produce reports 300-bln-yuan online sales in 2018

[Xinhua, 22-04-2019] Online sales of China's farm produce stood at 300 billion yuan (about 44.75 billion U.S. dollars) in 2018, the country's agriculture minister said.

China's grain production stood at 657.9 million tonnes in 2018, achieving the annual goal of 600 million tonnes for the seventh consecutive year, the report showed.

A total of 79,000 agricultural processing enterprises above designated size saw a total revenue of 14.9 trillion yuan, while leisure agriculture and rural tourism achieved over 800 billion yuan in the total revenue, according to the report.

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China's catering consumption upgrading creates bigger market pie

[Xinhua, 20-04-2019] Consumption upgrading in China's catering sector is accelerating as more catering services and management go online, creating fresh opportunities for domestic and overseas market players.

China's food production industry is becoming increasingly digitalized as technology involves the whole industrial chain, according to a white paper co-released by U.S. health and hygiene giant Ecolab and Yicai Media Group with support from global auditing and consulting firm Deloitte.

China is now the world's second largest catering market after the United States, with total revenue topping 4.2 trillion yuan (626.5 billion U.S. dollars) last year.

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Pork imports expected to stay high, prices likely to climb over next 2 years

[China daily, 23-04-2019] China's pork imports are expected to reach 1.7 million metric tons this year, an increase of more than 40 percent over last year, according to the China Agricultural Outlook (2019-28) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Imports are expected to increase to 2.1 million tons next year, and may then start to decline due to rising domestic supplies. However, they will remain at high levels over the next few years.

With the reduced supply, pork prices in China are expected to increase by up to 40 percent this year compared with last year, with a more prominent rise in the latter half of the year. Prices are expected to continue rising over the next two years.

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China's health foods market: what makes it attractive for foreign investors

[China Briefing, 04-04-2019] The biggest trend in Chinese consumer behavior is a growing awareness of health foods, which is impact changing their purchasing behavior.

In addition, 86 percent of Chinese consumers consider food safety when buying food products and 52 percent consider it as the primary factor when buying or choosing food.

Accordingly, the sales of imported health foods, such as food supplements and premium dairy products is booming, while low nutrition food products are gradually losing popularity.

Yet, to be successful in the Chinese market, foreign players need to understand local consumer behavior.

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Prosperity grows on sweetcorn

[Xinhua, 08-04-2019] Sweetcorn's special texture and delicate quality make it quite popular. In China, they are also called "fruit corn." Compared to regular corn, sweetcorn is sweeter, more delicate and has a special aroma.

In the past, regular corn was mainly used as fodder or processed as alcohol, and corn prices remained low.

As the increasingly wealthy Chinese pay more attention to balanced diets, sweetcorn has found a huge market.

Sweetcorn plantations have higher requirements that include seeds quality, growing distance and field management.

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China's farm produce trade deficit expands

[Xinhua, 06-04-2019] China's agricultural products trade reported a deficit of 12.72 billion U.S. dollars in the January-February period, up 37.1 percent year on year, official statistics showed.

Imports increased by 10.2 percent year on year to 23.52 billion U.S. dollars while exports went down 10.5 percent to 10.8 billion U.S. dollars, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

China imported 3.26 million tonnes of grain in the first two months, while exports stood at 365,000 tonnes.

Total imports of edible vegetable oil grew 44.5 percent to 1.71 million tonnes during the period while imports of beef surged 54.6 percent year on year.

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Chinese consumers ignore calls to eat less beef

[China Dialogue, 03-04-2019] Despite increasing prices and evidence that too much beef is bad for health and the environment, belief that eating red meat makes you strong persists in China, and consumption is accelerating.

Shortly after the Chinese New Year holiday, business was brisk again at the beef and lamb section of the Xinfadi Wholesale Food Market. Known as "Beijing's shopping basket", the market is popular with urbanites looking to pick up cheap fresh food.

Figures from the Ministry of Agriculture show that in January and February wholesale beef prices rose over 11% compared to the same period in 2018. Importers have been stepping in to profit.

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Nestlé bullish on a more nutritionally-aware Chinese market

[CGTN, 27-03-2019] Nestlé, the world's largest food company, has been in China for more than 30 years. At the China Development Forum (CDF), CEO Mark Schneider told CGTN he is bullish on the long-term growth of the Chinese market.

Despite the slowing global economy, Nestlé has pledged to keep focused on R&D. "In fact, we have the largest research and development spending on food and beverage," Schneider said, adding that the company has five R&D centers in China.

The food company knows well how to combine its specialties with that of other companies as it completed the acquisition of the Starbucks packaged coffee business last year. Mark Schneider also eyes more opportunities in the Chinese market and said he will be happy if he can find good acquisitions here.

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Cargill starts construction of new plant in China

[Xinhua, 04-04-2019] US-based agriculture and food company Cargill has started the construction of a new plant that produces premix and animal nutrition products in east China's Jiangxi province, the company said.

With a total investment of approximately 40 million US dollars, the plant covers nearly 48,000 square meters and is expected to be put into operation by the end of 2020.

The plant is expected to produce 120,000 tonnes of premix and 60,000 tonnes of specialty young animal feed annually, according to Cargill.

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Outbreak of African Swine Fever in China

China to require meat processors to test for African swine fever

[Reuters, 03-04-2019] China's agriculture ministry said it will require pork processors handling raw pork to test for the presence of the African swine fever virus from May 1.

The tougher procedures come as the virus continues to spread through the world's largest pig herd. It has often been found in food products.

Processors should be inspected and show certificates to demonstrate that purchased pig products, including imported meat, do not contain the virus, said the notice published on the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs' website.

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China urges large pig farms to test for African swine fever

[Reuters, 16-04-2019] China will allow large-scale pig farms and breeding farms to test for African swine fever in a bid to help early detection of the disease, overturning an earlier prohibition on commercial firms carrying out their own testing.

The agriculture ministry has asked local husbandry bureaus to encourage large farms to obtain testing kits for the deadly virus that has swept through the country, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said on its website on Tuesday.

The move comes as China struggles to control the epidemic, which some analysts predict could see up to 200 million pigs die or be culled this year, causing a huge shortage of pork in the world's top producer.

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China toughens pig-slaughtering checks to curb African swine fever

[Xinhua, 29-04-2019] China has required pig slaughterhouses to conduct self-checks under the monitoring of veterinarians to curb the spread of African swine fever, according to a statement from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Monday, 29 April.

The ministry expects that compulsory checks can help it find out the situation in slaughterhouses, track their epidemic control and the whereabouts of their pigs and swine products, the statement said.

Taking slaughterhouses as "an important link" of the pork production chain, the ministry said it was much easier to collect samples at slaughterhouses, which could help maximize the coverage of African swine fever inspection and facilitate epidemic assessment based on clinical results and pig autopsy.

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Swine fever contained in China

[China daily, 10-04-2019] China has effectively contained the spread of African swine fever as the number of new outbreaks has slowed down this year, Han Changfu, minister of agriculture and rural affairs, said on Tuesday 9 April.

Since the highly contagious disease was first detected in August in China's Liaoning province, 122 cases — 119 affecting domestic pigs and three involving wild boars — have been confirmed in 30 provincial-level regions, Han said at the International Symposium on Prevention and Control of African Swine Fever held in Beijing.

As of Tuesday, 9 April, quarantines had been lifted in 108 disease-stricken areas, he said, adding that the number of new cases in each of the first three months of this year was held to single digits, signifying a slowdown.

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China's pigs are back on the move

[CX Daily, 24-04-2019] China has lifted a ban on the transport of pigs and pork in and out of 23 provinces after African swine fever outbreaks eased, a senior agricultural ministry official said Tuesday 23 April.

The resumed production and transportation of live pigs in the regions are "picking up," said Wei Baigang, head of the Department of Development Planning of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Wei warned that pork prices may spike in the second half of this year because of tight supply, fueling consumer inflation. Large-scale pig farms affected by the outbreaks are cautious about increasing the number of pigs they raise while small, individual farmers are withdrawing from the sector at a faster pace than before, he said, adding that the YOY fall in the number of both live pigs and fertile sows has exceeded 10% for three straight months.

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Brazil expects soy exports to fall but no ceiling for meat sales

[MercoPress, 23-04-2019] Brazilian soy exports to China will definitely decline this year as African swine fever in the world's No. 2 economy cuts demand for the animal feed, but potential growth in meat exports would offset this, Brazil's agriculture minister said.

Speaking with journalists, Tereza Cristina Dias said a Chinese outbreak of African swine fever, which kills pigs but poses no danger to humans, threatens yet offers opportunities for Brazil's agricultural exports.

Brazil is the world's largest soybean exporter, while China is the largest importer. As many as 200 million pigs are estimated to die from the outbreak, hurting demand for feed made from grains and oilseeds such as soybeans and corn.

Click [here](#) for details

African swine fever outbreaks in April 2019

Date	Location	Details
4 April	Shangri-la City, Yunnan Province	Click here for details
4 April	Midong District, Urumqi City, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region	Click here for details
7 April	Linzhi (also known as Nyingchi) City, Tibet	Click here for details
8 April	Yecheng County, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region	Click here for details
11 April	Shule County, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region	Click here for details
19 April	Danzhou City and Wanning City, Hainan Province	Click here for details
21 April	Xiuying District, Chengmai County, Baoting County and Lingshui County of Haikou City, Hainan Province	Click here for details
		Click here for details
		Click here for details

African swine fever restrictions lifted in April 2019

Date	Location	Details
4 April	Laiwu District, Jinan City, Shandong Province	Click here for details
4 April	Lushui City, Yunnan Province	Click here for details
11 April	Yinhai District, Beihai City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	Click here for details
12 April	Xushui District, Baoding City, Hebei Province	Click here for details
14 April	Jingbian County, Yulin City, Shaanxi Province	Click here for details
25 April	Nangang District, Guigang City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	Click here for details
		Click here for details
		Click here for details
		Click here for details

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