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Policies

China to create Xiongan New Area in Hebei

[Xinhua, 01-04-2017] China will establish the Xiongan New Area in Hebei Province, as part of measures to advance the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei (BTH) region.

China to set up Xiongan New Area in Hebei

China announced Saturday it would establish the Xiongan New Area in Hebei Province, as part of measures to advance the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei (BTH) region

The New Area, about 100 km southwest of downtown Beijing, will span three counties: Xiongqian, Rongcheng, Anxin



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China to further cut red tape for better business environment

[Xinhua, 26-04-2017] China has decided to further cut red tape by integrating separate business licenses to improve the business environment and stimulate market vitality.

All certificates related to business registration will continue to be sorted and merged into one license, according to a State Council executive meeting presided over by Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday 26 April.

The government expects the move -- another step in loosening the grip on the market -- will create a more favorable business environment, allow a faster and more convenient process for setting up businesses, and improve productivity.

The new policy will be applied to all industries and regions, said a statement released after the meeting.

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Agriculture insurance for disasters to be promoted in 200 counties

[English.gov.cn, 27-04-2017] About 200 counties in China will launch a new type of agriculture insurance as an innovative program to compensate crop yield losses resulting from natural disasters, according to the State Council executive meeting on April 26.

The counties will be chosen from China's 13 major grain production provinces including Hebei, Heilongjiang, Anhui and Henan. The insurance will be offered to family farms, large scale growers and farmers' cooperatives, covering the costs of agricultural materials, fertilizers, and land use fees for planting rice, wheat and corn.

China's agricultural insurance developed rapidly in recent years. Data from the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC) show that in 2007-2016, agricultural insurance payment rose from 112.6 billion yuan (\$16.3 billion) to 2.2 trillion yuan, and crop area coverage increased from 230 million mu (15.3 million hectares) to 1.72 billion.

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China tightens pesticide checks for food safety, environment

[Xinhua, 01-04-2017] China has decided to apply stricter rules on pesticide production and imports to improve food safety and environment protection in the world's most populous country.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang signed a State Council decree to promulgate a revised regulation on pesticide management, as the authority views the move as vitally important to improving food safety and the environment.

Pesticide producers and importers should register and gain approval certificates from the agricultural authority if they meet certain criteria, according to the regulation.

Pesticide products should pass quality checks before they are released for sale, it added. The new regulation also asked local authorities to enhance technical training for farmers to better utilize pesticides. The new regulation will take effect June 1, 2017

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China to toughen supervision over food safety

[ECNS, 15-04-2017] China will toughen supervision over food safety this year to ensure food quality "from the production line to the dining table."

The government will also work on lifting food safety standards to international levels.

More efforts will be made to enhance management of food planting and breeding and deal with air, water and soil pollution. China will release regulations over soil quality management of agricultural land by the end of this year.

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China aims to improve logistics system to protect food safety

[Xinhua, 21-04-2017] China will build a cold chain logistics system to improve food safety and boost consumer spending, according to an official document released on Friday 21 April.

The general office of the State Council, China's cabinet, published a guideline on the development of cold chain logistics framework, underscoring the importance on food safety and consumption upgrades.

The document calls for a significant increase in the use of cold chain to transport fresh farm produce and perishable food by 2020.

A cold chain temperature tracking system should be established. Logistical infrastructure should be built in major food producing regions and consumer markets across the country.

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China plans planting areas to upgrade agricultural pattern

[Xinhua, 11-04-2017] China is planning to define the country's agricultural production areas in two functions in three years, to assure the effective supply of agricultural products, Minister of Agriculture Han Changfu said Tuesday 11th April.

A total of 900 million mu (60 million hectares) of arable land will be allocated to main grain products including rice, wheat and corn, and 238 million mu will be assigned to five key agricultural products including soybean, cotton, rape seed, sugarcane and natural rubber, according to a State Council statement.

The move is in line with a national strategy on food supply, with future supply-demand relations taken into consideration, said Han.

It is aimed at optimizing agricultural production pattern and better orienting supportive policies, according to Han.

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State Council to promote pilot program for land planning at provincial level

[Gov.CN, 12-04-2017] The State Council approved an inter-department joint meeting system for land planning at the provincial level, as an effort to push forward pilot work in space planning in provinces.

According to the document, the joint meeting should promote the pilot program in provinces and study major issues encountered in the process under the lead of the State Council.

The joint meeting should also evaluate work results and promote successful practices. Meanwhile, it should study laws and regulations involved in space planning, and undertake other tasks from the central government.

Currently, the joint meeting is composed of the National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Land and Resources, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, State Forestry Bureau, State Oceanic Administration, and State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping.

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China's Belt and Road Initiative ushers in 'Globalization 2.0': Experts

[China daily, 13-04-2017] China's Belt and Road Initiative is drawing on a new type of regional strategy that can lead to "Globalization 2.0," said a renowned Chinese expert on international relations.

According to Zhang Yunling, director of the academic division of International Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), humanity entered the era of "Globalization 1.0" after World War II, focusing on connecting the world via multilateral and regional cooperation. Prior to 2008, Globalization 1.0 has indeed promoted rapid economic growth, but the anti-globalization trend is always waiting, ready to strike, as imbalanced development between regions and communities is inevitable, Zhang noted.

The Belt and Road Initiative, on the other hand, offers a distinctly Chinese way of looking at global governance and cooperation.

"We try to improve the geographic advantages forged after industrialization in the West, which favors oceanic powers ... By connecting interior land, we are re-constructing these geographic advantages so that inland regions can also profit," Zhang explained.

"It should be emphasized that the Belt and Road Initiative is not a project. It is an initiative, a method. It is not only about routes drawn on a map, but also about suggesting a direction and covering neighboring regions," Zhang emphasized.

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Science, Technology and Environment

Ten CAAS scientists enter the list of Elsevier's 2016 Most Cited Chinese Researchers

[CAAS, 03-2017] 10 Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) scientists were placed as the 2016 Most Cited Chinese Researchers by Elsevier's newly released list, in which totally 1776 Chinese researchers were recognized with global influence. CAAS tops the Chinese agricultural research institutions in terms of exposure in the list.

Prof. Chen Hualan, from Harbin Veterinary Research Institute (HVRI), Prof. Tong Guanzhi and Prof. Li Zejun from Shanghai Veterinary Research Institute (SHVRI) were recognized as the most cited researchers in Immunology and Microbiology; Prof./Academician Wu Kongming and Prof./Academician Wan Jianmin, Prof. Li Zhikang, Prof. He Zhonghu, Prof. Jia Jizeng from Institute of Crop Sciences (ICS) were listed among the most cited researchers in agricultural and biological sciences; Prof. Zhu Xingquan and Prof. Hu Dinghuan were among the most cited researchers in veterinary science and social science respectively.

Early this year, 3 CAAS scientists were included in 2016 Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researchers. The exposure of CAAS scientists on these world-class academic rankings signifies their global influence and outstanding contribution to their research areas.

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Factory farms the future for Chinese scientists

[Xinhua, 30-04-2017] In a factory in eastern China, farming is becoming like scientific endeavor, with leafy vegetables embedded neatly on stacked layers, and workers in laboratory suits tending the plants in cleanrooms.

The factory, with an area of 10,000 square meters, is in Quanzhou, Fujian Province. Built in June 2016, the land is designed to be a "plant factory," where all environmental factors,

including light, humidity, temperature and gases, can be controlled to produce quality vegetables.

The method is pursued by Sananbio, a joint venture between the Institute of Botany under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IBCAS) and Sanan Group, a Chinese optoelectronics giant. The company is attempting to produce more crops in less space while minimizing environmental damage.

Sananbio said it would invest 7 billion yuan (about 1.02 billion U.S. dollars) to bring the new breed of agriculture to reality.

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Rural tourism sees robust growth in China

[Xinhua, 11-04-2017] Rural tourism maintained robust growth in China last year as more city-dwellers prefer a taste of the country life during holidays, and governments hope the burgeoning sector will help relieve poverty.

Revenue from rural tourism surpassed 570 billion yuan (82.66 billion U.S. dollars) in 2016, up significantly from 440 billion yuan a year ago, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) said Tuesday during a meeting.

With some 2.1 billion trips made to the countryside last year, the rapidly growing sector created jobs for 6.72 million rural people, according to the MOA.

"Leisure agriculture and rural tourism are bracing for a precious growth opportunity. The demand will become stronger due to rising incomes and upgraded consumption," Agriculture Minister Han Changfu said when addressing the meeting.

China has been rolling out favorable measures to develop tourism for poor rural areas.

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'Internet Plus' to fuel brand-building for Chinese agricultural products

[China Daily, 13-04-2017] Chinese farmers should view product promotion through the lens of "Internet Plus," said an official with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on April 12.

"Innovation has always been key in brand-building. We have long passed the time where farmers only toiled on their land. In our era, 'Internet Plus' must be highlighted. China is the world's largest consumer of meat and crops, with an annual consumption of 50 kilograms and 450 kilograms per capita respectively. It is time that we promote our brand overseas," said Song Chengmin, a macroeconomic management official with the NDRC, at a conference on agricultural branding in Linyi, Shandong province.

The conference was held by the Linyi government and the People's Tribune on April 12. Its theme was the proposal made by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2015 to strengthen brand-building for agricultural products.

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China's 'super hybrid' rice expected to yield 17 tons per hectare

[People's Daily, 13-04-2017] The annual output of China's "super hybrid" rice may reach 17 tons per hectare, according to renowned rice scientist Yuan Longping, known as China's father of hybrid rice.

"This year, we are striving for a new yield of 1,130 kilograms per mu [about 0.07 hectares], or 17 tons per hectare," Yuan said on April 12 at the First International Forum on Rice in Sanya, Hainan province. "Our chance of reaching the target is 90 percent," he added.

The Ministry of Agriculture launched a super hybrid rice breeding project in 1996. The previous target of 16 tons per hectare was realized in 2015, Yuan said.

At the forum, experts from the Chinese Academy of Engineering and the Chinese Academy of Sciences discussed innovations in rice breeding and the development of the rice industry. Over 500 new varieties of rice were on display at the forum.

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Project to aid ecology of wetland

[China daily, 10-04-2017] Baiyangdian, northern China's largest freshwater wetland, will see its ecological environment further improve as part of the Xiongan New Area, according to local authorities.

"The water quality will get better," said Liu Dongchen, administrative head of the Baiyangdian Wetland Nature Reserve. "The new area will certainly enhance the wetland's ecological conservation."

The new area, the third national special economic zone after Shenzhen Special Economic Zone and Shanghai Pudong New Area, is of national significance and "crucial for the millennium to come", according to the central government.

The ecological protection of Baiyangdian was listed as a priority task by President Xi Jinping during an inspection tour of Anxin on Feb 23.

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China aims to better protect natural shoreline

[Xinhua, 01-04-2017] The State Oceanic Administration (SOA) has published China's first regulation on shorelines, requiring that, by 2020, no less than 35 percent of the country's total shoreline should be natural.

The regulation on the protection and utilization of shorelines defines natural shorelines as those formed by land-ocean interactions, such as silt and bedrock shores.

The regulation imposes strict restrictions on the occupation of natural shoreline in construction projects, requiring strict evaluation and approval for projects that must occupy natural shoreline.

Since 1990, natural shoreline has accounted for less than 40 percent of the country's total, according to the SOA.

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Fish farmer from 'cancer village' seeks landmark ruling over dead daughter

[Caixin, 18-04-2017] The decision by a Chinese court to accept a case in which a fish farmer has taken on two polluting steel companies and the local environmental authorities who allegedly allowed them to operate has become a watershed moment in the country's environmental litigation.

The case will determine whether citizens can sue a government environmental authority for negligence or dereliction of duty that dates back to 2003, when the country's Environmental

Impact Assessment Law came into effect. Complainants now are required to file administrative lawsuits within five years.

Currently, the country's Administrative Procedure Law says plaintiffs who have been adversely affected by a government decision can bring the responsible authority to court within a five-year period after a decision is announced. And this has been a major stumbling block for farmers like Feng Jun and hundreds of other people living in China's so-called cancer villages, who sue local authorities for lax oversight only when a family member falls seriously ill after being exposed to toxic pollution for years.

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EU and China launch young farmers exchange program

[NewEurope, 21-04-2017] The European Commission along with the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China deep up for global cooperation in agriculture.

Brussels and Beijing agreed to allow young farmers to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture and rural development by giving to Chinese and European professionals the opportunity to learn about new tools to tackle the challenges they face in their sector, together.

Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner Phil Hogan and Chinese Agriculture Minister Han Changfu have signed a joint declaration launching this program on Friday 21 April in Brussels, allowing visits by young farmers and industry professionals from both sides and participation in training courses, agricultural enterprises, innovative farms, government entities, research institutes, and cooperatives.

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Sharing life-saving agricultural know-how

[China daily, 14-04-2017] China to help Kenya with irrigation and grain storage to achieve food security.

The Chinese government has affirmed its commitment to help Kenya to develop an efficient irrigation system as well as to improve its grain storage facilities in an effort to tackle the country's increasing food insecurity.

According to Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Liu Xianfa, Kenya can significantly realize food security if it modernizes its agricultural system. He says China has made great progress in agricultural modernization and is ready to share its know-how with Kenya.

Kenya's agriculture is mainly rain-fed, but about 80 percent of the land is arid or semi-arid, with average annual rainfall of 400 mm. Farmers use traditional farming methods, realizing meager produce. Droughts are frequent, and crops fail in one of every three seasons.

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Chinese company to build modern agricultural industrial park in Laos

[Xinhua, 26-04-2017] Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with China's Xuanye (Lao) Co., Ltd/AVIC International Beijing Co., Ltd on a modern agricultural industrial park project in Laos.

The agricultural industrial park will serve as a supporting project to the under-construction China-Laos railway, building a regional center of agricultural products trading, warehousing and logistics hub platform.

The ministry is expected to cooperate with Xuanye to build a demonstration of modern agricultural industrial park in Laos, with the construction of the China-Laos railway to deepen bilateral trade cooperation and accelerate the transformation of Lao agricultural sector.

Previously, local government of Lao central Savannakhet province signed an agreement with Xuanye on a 2,000-hectare plantation demonstration.

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Trade and Business

Dairy imports will continue to rise

[China daily, 21-04-2017] Imports of dairy products to China will continue to rise over the next 10 years, although at a slower pace, according to a report released on Thursday 20 April.

It is estimated that China will import 14.2 million metric tons of dairy products this year, an increase of 11 percent over last year, according to the report, China Agricultural Outlook (2017-26), which was released by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Spurred by factors such as rising demand and higher domestic costs, dairy imports will exceed 19 million tons by 2026, an increase of about 50 percent over last year, the report said.

Over the past decade, imports grew at an average 14 percent annually.

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China launches second exchange-traded agricultural commodity option

[China daily, 19-04-2017] Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange launched white sugar options on Wednesday 19th April to enhance risk management tools of agro-related enterprises, following soybean meal options, the first agricultural commodity options in China.

The launch is in response to the No 1 Document 2016 issued by the central government which stated that it is necessary to "create agricultural futures varieties and carry out agricultural options pilot".

The term "option" refers to the right of the buyer to buy or sell a certain commodity or financial instrument in certain quantity in accordance with the predetermined price within the agreed time limit. Option is a mature basic risk management tool in international derivatives market and constitutes a complete risk management tool system in commodity market together with futures, forwards and swaps.

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China gets green light for biggest-ever foreign acquisition

[CNN, 05-04-2017] China has the green light from U.S. and European regulators to go ahead with a \$43 billion takeover, its biggest ever.

ChemChina, a state-owned chemical company, is buying Syngenta, a Swiss supplier of pesticides and seeds.

The deal would give China, which is the world's most populous country and has a growing middle class, more control over food production. The takeover would be more than twice the

size of any other foreign purchase made by a Chinese company, according to data from Dealogic.

The European Commission approved the acquisition on 5th April, and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission approved it 4th April. Both regulators required tweaks to ensure the deal wouldn't reduce competition.

They were particularly worried that ChemChina would have too much power in the pesticide market. It already owns the world's biggest producer of generic pesticides, based in Israel. Both companies will have to sell some businesses to competitors.

The deal still needs approval from regulators in China, India and Mexico. Syngenta said it didn't expect problems.

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First rail freight service to China departs UK

[BBC, 10-04-2017] The first rail freight service from the UK to China has departed on its 17-day, 7,500-mile journey.

British goods including soft drinks, vitamins and baby products are in the 30 containers carried by the train, which will be a regular service.

The DP World locomotive left its terminal in Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, for Zhejiang province, eastern China.

After going through the Channel Tunnel, the train will pass through seven other countries before arriving on 27 April. They are France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan.

The operators say it is cheaper to send goods by train than by air and faster than by sea.

The service is part of China's "one belt, one road" programme aimed at reviving the ancient Silk Road trading routes with the West, dating back more than 2,000 years.

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First Britain-China direct freight train arrives back in China

[Mailonline, 29-04-2017] The first freight train to run from Britain to China arrived in the city of Yiwu in eastern China on Saturday, completing its 12,000-km (7,456-mile) journey.

The train was greeted by traders and shipping company officials when it arrived at Yiwu West station.

Operated by Yiwu Timex Industrial Investment, the Yiwu-London freight service makes London the 15th European city to have a direct rail link with China after the 2013 unveiling of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"This freight train is a reflection of the achievements of trade," Yiwu Timex Chairman Timmy Feng told Reuters Television.

For Britain, the train is part of an effort to strengthen trade links with the rest of the world as it prepares to leave the European Union in two years' time.

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UK further embraces Belt & Road Initiative

[China.org, 15-04-2017] This year, the United Kingdom became the westernmost point in the Belt and Road Initiative's sprawling land-transportation network when a freight train

crossed the deserts and mountains of Eurasia on the 12,400 km journey from Yiwu, Zhejiang province, on China's eastern coast, to Barking Station in London.

The UK has been a strong advocate of President Xi Jinping's signature international development and infrastructure plan since 2013, when the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, known together as the Belt and Road Initiative, were proposed.

British companies have worked on dozens of Chinese development projects along the initiative's proposed routes. The UK's most visible endorsement of the plan came in 2015, when it joined the China-led Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank. In February, Chinese government sources told news outlets that China had invited British Prime Minister Theresa May to its major Belt and Road summit in Beijing in May.

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China's Bright to sell Weetabix to Post Holdings in \$1.76 billion deal

[Reuters, 18-04-2017] U.S. company Post Holdings is buying Weetabix from China's Bright Food Group Co Ltd for 1.4 billion pounds, putting the British breakfast favourite back into the hands of a cereal company.

Post said on Tuesday 18 April that the combination will help its own brands, which include Honey Bunches of Oats and Grape-Nuts, to expand overseas, while allowing for greater distribution of Weetabix and its Barbara's brand in North America.

The sale comes just five years after Chinese state-owned Bright Food took control of Weetabix in a deal that valued it at 1.2 billion pounds at the time of a major overseas push stretching from Australia to Israel.

The sale would give Bright extra firepower should it want to bid for any other food assets currently on the block.

Post has agreed in principle to establish a joint venture with Bright Food and Baring to manage the Weetabix China operations.

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China reopens market to live Irish crab

[FIS, 25-04-2017] Minister of Agriculture of Ireland reached an agreement with a Chinese official on the proposed certificate to accompany consignments of crab exports to the Chinese market, which should facilitate the resumption of the crab trade between both countries.

Minister Michael Creed and the head of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of China, Zhi Shuping, recognise that the Asian country has become an extremely important market for Irish seafood and restoration of this trade is seen as particularly important for Irish seafood exporters ahead of BREXIT.

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) and AQSIQ reached a technical deal on a methodology designed to solve the live crab export certificate issue to China. As a result of the deal, SFPA will implement the crab monitoring programme and certification will be built upon these criteria and the Chinese authorities (AQSIQ) will continue to monitor consignments arriving in the Asian country.

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China appreciates Estonia's participation in Belt and Road initiative

[Xinhua, 14-04-2017] Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli has expressed appreciation for Estonia's support and participation in the Belt and Road Initiative, calling on both sides to fully tap the potentials to step up economic and trade cooperation.

Zhang made the remarks while meeting with Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid on Thursday 13 April in Tallinn, capital of the Baltic country.

He called on both sides to fully explore cooperation potentials in the areas of infrastructure construction, production capacity, equipment manufacturing, agriculture and information technology in order to step up the bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

For her part, Kaljulaid said her country pays great importance to the exchanges with China at various levels under the "16+1" cooperation mechanism.

The "16+1" refers to China and the 16 Central and Eastern European countries.

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Cargill opens oilseed facility in China

[World Grain, 26-04-2017] Cargill, New Hope Group and Hebei Bohai Investment Group have launched a \$100 million oilseeds processing plant with an annual processing capacity of 1.32 million tonnes in Huanghua, Cangzhou, in Hebei Province of China. The plant will help meet the growing demand for high quality food products in Northern China, drive the development of the local economy, and facilitate its integration into the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

The plant, Hebei Jiahao Grain & Oil Co Ltd, covers 21,000 square meters in the Bohai new development area, which is the largest national economic development zone along China's east coast. Finished products will include high quality oil and animal feed, which will be marketed in northern China, including in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

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Crushing blow to soy processors as Chinese grow wary on GMO

[Reuters, 28-04-2017] A Chinese consumer backlash against genetically modified (GMO) crops is beginning to dent demand for soy oil, the nation's main cooking oil, and could spell crisis for the multi-billion-dollar crushing industry, which depends on GMO soybeans from the United States and elsewhere.

A Nielsen survey last year showed about 70 percent of consumers in China limited or avoided at least some foods or ingredients, compared with a global average of 64 percent, with 57 percent naming GMOs as undesirable.

The mood is causing headaches for crushers, said Paul Burke, Asia director at the U.S. Soybean Export Council, forcing them to find new markets for their soyoil, though it had not yet had a noticeable impact on bean imports, as demand for soymeal used for animal feed, the larger byproduct of soybean crush, is still robust as China expands its livestock industry.

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Starbucks sips up to Beijing's elder care agenda

[Caixin, 12-04-2017] The elderly in China are getting a pick-me-up from the world's biggest coffee chain, with the announcement that Starbucks will extend health insurance to parents of its employees for critical illness.

Analysts said the move should bring positive publicity to Starbucks Coffee Co., in a country where the elderly traditionally command a high degree of respect. The move also comes as Beijing and local officials plead with younger Chinese to take better care of their parents, many of whom survive on modest pensions and live in distant villages from the big cities where their children work.

Starbucks said its new program will provide insurance for up to 10,000 of its employees' parents if they become critically ill.

It said the new coverage is designed to supplement China's national health plan, and is an outgrowth of a broader program the company launched in 2010 to provide financial assistance to its workers. An analysis of data from that program showed that 70% of employees were concerned about the health of their parents as they aged.

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Protocol signed for market access to China for Irish beef

[Farmers Journal, 18-04-2017] A formal protocol on beef exports to China was signed by Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed and Chinese Minister Zhi Shuping in Dublin on Tuesday, 18th April.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has said that two days of bilateral talks between the ministers have allowed "a number of significant advances" to be made market access for Irish beef to China.

"With reference to beef access, both Ministers signed a formal protocol on beef exports to China that paves the way to access for Irish beef to China," the department said in a statement.

A veterinary health certificate with Chinese authorities is still being finalised, which will then be followed by inspections by Chinese officials to approve individual processing plants for export.

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China closer to importing U.S. beef

[FarmWeekNow, 13-04-2017] The U.S. possibly moved one step closer to regaining a place in the complicated Chinese beef market this month.

President Trump, during a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, reportedly reached a deal, at least in principle, to allow U.S. beef back into China for the first time since the BSE scare of 2003.

While the deal made for great headlines, it remains to be seen when the agreement will shift from a handshake to hamburgers and other beef products.

China previously lifted its ban on U.S. beef last September. But American beef remains blocked from the Chinese market.

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