



May 13, 2025

ABC Outreach to Turkey and Morocco

Tuksiad Conference – For the second year in a row, ABC was in Turkey to meet with importers and processors and to participate in the annual [Tuksiad](#) conference organized by Turkey's dried fruit and nut association. Tuksiad has been instrumental in encouraging the Turkish government to facilitate imports of almonds to augment Turkey's domestic almond production. Almond imports have grown considerably in recent years from 77 million pounds in 2020 to more than 151 million pounds in 2025. Turkey's almond exports have also increased during the same time from 30 million pounds to 73 million pounds. The port of Mersin's capacity will be increased from the current level of 2.6 million TEU to 3.6 million TEU by April 2026. With the war dying down in Syria, Turkish importers are optimistic that more and more almonds will come in to Turkey for further processing, to meet increasing domestic needs, and for re-export to other growing markets in the region.

1st Almond Workshop in Morocco – On May 5, ABC staff conducted an Almonds 101 workshop in Casablanca for Moroccan importers and processors. Several California almond shippers also participated, providing a chance to make contacts and clarify import procedures. Since the U.S. trade agreement with Morocco was implemented in 2019, U.S. almond exports have increased from 13 million pounds to 84 million pounds in 2024. One of the workshop highlights was a presentation on import procedures by Morocco's food safety authorities from the Casablanca port. The ABC team also followed up on collaboration opportunities with the Baking and Pastry Training Institute (IFMBP).

Tariffs, Tariffs, Tariffs

Since the U.S.' announcement of new tariffs last month and retaliation by China, the Administration paused implementation of reciprocal tariffs for 90 days for countries other than China, while actively pursuing a number of bilateral negotiations before

the 90-day pause ends on July 8. The EU, which also paused proposed duties for 90-days, has gone out with a request for comments on a new list of counter duties.

The UK was the first to announce an agreement on May 8, although full details have not been released. Discussions between U.S. and Chinese officials are taking place this weekend, hopefully opening the door to a resolution. ABC is closely following reports from the Port of Los Angeles (the leading U.S. port for receiving incoming cargo from Asia) that incoming containers from China will be down by at least 35% in May compared to last year. The precipitous drop of incoming shipments will have a detrimental effect on the supply chain – dock workers, truckers, and sufficient empty containers to ship out export cargo.

On May 12, the [US and China announced](#) a 90-day pause on previously announced tariffs. The new tariff rate in China for U.S. origin- raw almonds is now 45% down from 160%. The new total includes the original pre-March 4 rate of 25%, plus 10% for fentanyl, and the updated 10% reciprocal tariff giving us 45%. For more information, contact Keith at kschneller@almondboard.com.

EU Updates

On April 3rd, 2025, the European Parliament voted to postpone the application dates for new EU laws on due diligence and sustainability reporting requirements. With 531 votes for, 69 against and 17 abstentions, MEPs supported the Commission proposal, part of wider simplification efforts aimed at strengthening the EU's competitiveness. The new [due diligence rules](#) require companies to mitigate their negative impact on people and the planet. Member States will have an extra year – until 26 July 2027 – to transpose the rules into national legislation. The one-year extension will also apply to the first wave of businesses to be affected, namely: EU companies with over 5,000 employees and net turnover higher than €1.5 billion, and non-EU companies with a turnover above this threshold in the EU. These companies will only have to apply the rules from 2028. The date of application will be the same for the second wave of companies: those in the EU with over 3,000 employees and net turnover higher than

€900 million, and non-EU companies with turnover above that threshold in the EU.

Application of the [sustainability reporting directive](#) will also be delayed by two years for the second and third waves of companies covered by the legislation. Large companies with more than 250 employees will be required to report on their social and environmental measures for the first time in 2028 for the previous financial year, while listed small and medium-sized enterprises will have to provide this information one year later.

U.S.-India Trade Talks

On April 11, the U.S. and India [finalized terms](#) on a bilateral free trade agreement and continue to move forward with negotiations. India's (paused) country-specific "reciprocal" tariff rate was set at 26 percent. However, it is unclear how current tensions between India and Pakistan may disrupt timing. No leave will be granted to any official of Delhi government until further advised, given the prevailing situation and preparedness for any emergency.

In the meantime, the UK and India recently reached an agreement after years of negotiations making it the UK's most valuable post-Brexit trade deal which lowers tariffs on a wide range of goods, including British alcohol and cars, and Indian clothes and footwear. Talks began years ago, but officials signed the deal after new U.S. tariffs were announced last month. India has reportedly [proposed zero-for-zero tariffs](#) on auto parts, steel, and pharmaceuticals to expedite negotiations with the U.S.

U.S. and UK Announce Trade Deal

On May 8, President Trump held a press conference announcing that a "very large" trade deal with the United Kingdom had been completed with final details to be announced in coming weeks. He announced that the deal would provide new market access in the UK for American agriculture, chemicals, machinery, and many other industrial products. According to UK press reports, the U.S. agreed to lower its 25% additional tariff on auto and auto parts to 10% for the first 100,000 cars entering the U.S., and to eliminate a 25% tariff on steel and aluminum tariffs. Two-way trade between the U.S.

and UK totaled about \$148 billion last year (3% of U.S. trade with the world). That's dwarfed by the much bigger U.S. trade relationships with Mexico, Canada, China and the EU.

Chinese Ship Fees

USTR reported in a [Federal Register notice](#) on April 17 that it intends to impose port fees on Chinese-operated and -built ships based on their net tonnage rather than per ship. Also proposed is that the fee would only be applied on the first U.S. port landing per sailing and would be limited to five times per year to a specific ship. Set to take effect in 180 days, USTR said its changes to the proposal acknowledged those concerns, as well as the fact that it will take time to revitalize U.S. shipbuilding. President Trump signed the [Restoring America's Maritime Dominance](#) Executive Order on April 9, issuing [revisions](#) to the scope of its Section 301 tariffs, calling on USTR to propose tariffs on ship-to-shore cranes, and other actions. USTR is [seeking public comments](#) on the proposed tariffs and plans to hold a hearing on May 19.

WTO Global Trade Outlook Report

The WTO's new [Global Trade Outlook and Statistics](#) report found that the trade outlook has "deteriorated sharply," reflecting the uncertainty sparked by a host of new tariffs. Trade in goods is predicted to see a 0.2% decline and then a small rebound in 2026. 2024 trade in goods saw a strong 2.9% growth. North America faces the greatest overall decline. Services trade has a better prospect, with 4.1% growth projected for 2025 (down from 5.1%, and lower than the strong 2024 growth of 6.8%). WTO Director-General Okonjo-Iweala issued an accompanying [statement](#) that she is "deeply concerned" by the current trade uncertainty, particularly the "U.S.-China stand-off." She warned about the harmful consequences of the top two world economies decoupling, saying it could result in a "substantial" 7% decrease in global GDP.

Ag Groups Express Support for WTO

On April 16, a collection of agricultural groups wrote a [letter](#) to congressional leaders in the Senate Finance and House Ways & Means committees "strongly" urging them to "to maintain and

strengthen the United States' role in the WTO." The groups, which included the CropLife America, the National Pork Producers Council, USA Rice, and others argued that the trade body provides "meaningful economic and political stability" that has been essential for US producers. They note that U.S. agricultural exports have increased exponentially since the WTO was formed, "*Since the United States adopted major WTO agreements in 1994, for example, U.S. agricultural exports have grown from \$62 billion to nearly \$176 billion in 2024, as export subsidies were eliminated, trade distorting subsidies and tariffs reduced, tariff-rate quotas established for some commodities, border procedures became more efficient, and non-tariff barriers subject to new rules minimized disguised protectionism.*"

Prop 65 and Acrylamide

In an important decision under California's Proposition 65, a federal court recently ruled that businesses cannot be required to provide a product warning under Proposition 65 where there is no scientific consensus on whether the chemical found in the product is a carcinogen.

On May 2, 2025, the Court granted summary judgment for plaintiffs in California Chamber of Commerce v. Bonta, No. 19-CV-02019 (E.D. Cal.) ("Cal Chamber"), holding that the *First Amendment bars the State of California from requiring businesses to provide a Proposition 65 warning for potential exposure to dietary acrylamide, a chemical commonly found in foods subjected to high-temperature cooking.* The decision has far-reaching implications for Proposition 65 warnings.

2025 MRL Conference Recap

ABC staff participated in the May 6-7, 2025 MRL Conference in San Diego. The conference brings together stakeholders ranging from government agencies and chemical registrants, to commodity associations and researchers, to foster dialogue on some of the pressing trade barrier issues resulting from missing or misaligned MRLs between various countries.

A key topic of discussion was EU's hazard-based criteria, which goes against the risk-based system used by rest of the world, and the resulting

challenges of managing import tolerances for several important pest control tools for commodities exported to the EU.

Following the EU parliamentary elections in 2024, and a new 'Vision for Food and Agriculture' roadmap, EU seeks to emphasize a level playing field for its farmers, which could mean restricting access to pest control tools in third countries if those tools are banned in the EU. Such a system would fall afoul of WTO rules; the U.S. and several other countries have raised objections, citing the need for pest control tools to be available based on local conditions. ABC's Gabriele Ludwig participated in a panel discussion on the use of biopesticides and the various challenges facing the current regulatory approval system for biopesticides and the efficacy of biocontrol tools against pests and diseases.

Upcoming Events

June 16-19	AgTC Annual Meeting in Tacoma
July 9-11	USAEDC/Attache Conference DC
Sept 8-13	CCPR Meeting Chile

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