



June 12, 2025

China Facility Registration Renewals

Since 2022, most almond handlers were able to register their facilities to export raw almonds to China using the [CIFER online](#) system. However, most registrations will need to be renewed by the end of December 2025. **Between 3-6 months before expiry date (after July 1),** facilities should:

- Confirm your expiration date using category **12** for nuts and seeds and country/region **USA** at <https://ciferquery.singlewindow.cn/>;
- Confirm that your FDA [Export Listing Module](#) Application for China is up-to-date at the [FDA registration portal](#);
- Log into your CIFER account and click on “Application for extension” tab, then enter code **12** for “Nuts and seeds” which should provide you with link to a GACC Declaration of Conformity (DOC);
- Download, print, sign, date and stamp the DOC;
- Upload the DOC back into CIFER and hit submit;
- FDA will first receive your renewal request via CIFER and forward on to GACC for approval;
- Each firm should monitor the CIFER portal on a weekly basis for approval/rejection by clicking on the “Comprehensive/Application enquiry” tabs.

After approval, the GACC registration numbers should be extended for another five years. These approval numbers need to be included on all shipping tags/documentation on exports to China.

[USDA recently published a guide](#) for GACC renewals with more details. Please contact Keith for more info at kschneller@almondboard.com.

ABC Meeting with Chinese Consul General

On June 5, several ABC staff and industry representatives met in Modesto with the Consul General from the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco. This was a follow up to a visit to the Consulate last fall to maintain positive relations with Chinese government officials. ABC provided an overview of almond production and marketing efforts which included a discussion of the industry’s activities in China, Decree 248, and the impact of recent trade actions. Also discussed was

participation in a California pavilion at the China International Import Expo next November. The Consul General was optimistic about the recent phone call between our two presidents that could put trade negotiations back on track to facilitate trade between the United States and China.

2025 Environmental Stewardship Tour

ABC hosted its annual Environmental Stewardship Tour on May 9. Over 50 representatives from key regulatory agencies attended. The tour, held at the Bowman family's orchards in Modesto, provided policymakers with practical insights into almond farming and industry stewardship practices. Garret Bowman, a fourth-generation almond grower, along with his sons, explained essential practices for irrigation, nutrient management, pest control, and more. Further, a research project led by Dr. Thomas Harter from UC Davis was showcased. This project examines the impact of nitrogen management on the potential for off-site movement of nitrogen, both into ground water and into the air. Data shows that refining nitrogen reduces the amount that is leached.

ABC staff provided information on research, outreach and stewardship programs. This session sparked active dialogue with regulatory staff posing thoughtful questions about irrigation practices, almond byproduct utilization, and other aspects of almond production. Attendees included senior staff from various regulatory agencies (Dept. of Pesticide Regulations, Dept. of Food & Ag, Air Resource Board, Water Board, EPA Region 9, etc.), and the tour's value was quickly recognized by EPA officials in Washington DC.

Latest Updates on Tariffs

On May 28, the U.S. Court of International Trade (CIT) [issued a summary judgment](#) stating that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act ([IEEPA](#)) does not grant President Trump unfettered authority to impose tariffs. If it stands, this ruling will affect tariffs imposed on Canada, Mexico, and China (for illegal immigration and fentanyl trafficking) and will also affect “reciprocal” global 10% baseline tariffs designed to reverse trade deficits. A [Federal Appeals Court](#) has already implemented a [stay](#) maintaining the tariffs until the cases go through the Appeals process. These

Federal Court decisions only apply to IEEPA and will have no impact on Sec 232 (steel/alum) or Sec 301 tariffs. Other trade updates:

- **USTR negotiators** continue to engage with countries on bilateral agreements in advance of July 9, when the 90 day pause on reciprocal tariffs is expected to end.
- On June 3, Donald Trump signed a [proclamation](#) to raise the **Section 232 tariffs** on steel and aluminum from 25% to 50%, effective June 4th. The **UK**, which signed an [Economic Prosperity Deal \(EPD\)](#) with the US, is excluded from the increase -- that could be adjusted on/after July 9 if the UK is not fully implementing the EPD.
- Washington and **Beijing** [agreed to pause](#) for 90 days most of the tariffs they have imposed on each other following high-level talks on May 12. President Trump held a productive call with President Xi on June 5. U.S. officials indicated they are aiming to arrange face-to-face meetings before the G20 summit in Osaka next month.
- On May 23, President Trump proposed an additional 50 percent tariff on the EU, set to start on June 1; however, President Trump agreed to delay the proposed duties until July 9 and to fast track negotiations after a phone call with EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

ABC staff are monitoring foreign responses to these latest developments. For more information, contact Keith at kschneller@almondboard.com or Julie at jadams@almondboard.com

UK-EU Trade Deal and Common SPS Area

The UK and the EU reached a [Strategic Partnership](#) agreement on May 19. The two agreed to work toward a common sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) area and to remove some checks on animal and plant product imports. The UK largely agreed to adopt EU regulations on agricultural technologies.

USDA Forecasts Record US Ag Trade Deficit

USDA's recently released fiscal year 2025 [quarterly forecast](#) for U.S. ag exports is slightly up to \$49.5 billion beating last year's previous record of \$31.8 billion, based on lower exports and higher imports.

Ag exports to China are forecasted at \$18.5 billion, down from its February forecast of \$22 billion and actual shipments of \$25.7 billion in fiscal 2024. To date, China currently has not reported purchases of U.S. corn, soybeans or wheat to be shipped next fall due to trade uncertainties.

US Farm Sentiment hits 4-year High

Growers remain optimistic according to a [recent survey](#) of 400 producers by Purdue University last month with farmer sentiment reaching its highest level since May 2021. The report states, "Key reasons behind the sentiment improvement were a much more optimistic view of U.S. agricultural export prospects, combined with a less negative view of tariffs' impact on 2025 farm income than respondents provided in either March or April." According to the survey, only 28% of farmers agree that free trade is beneficial for agriculture down from 49% in Nov 2020.

Chinese Shipbuilding Fees Hearing

USTR held a [hearing](#) on May 19 to discuss the potential impact of proposed additional duties on ship-to-shore cranes and other cargo handling equipment from China. USTR's original shipbuilding and maritime proposals under Section 301 were [scaled back](#) significantly in the final decision. USTR is soliciting public comments to consider proposed modifications to certain aspects of Annexes III (targeted coverage) and IV (LNG export licenses) The deadline for comments is July 7, 2025. The Federal Register notice can be viewed [here](#).

Upcoming Events & GTRA Activities

June 16-19	AgTC Annual Meeting in Tacoma
June 9-20	UNECE and EU industry mtgs
July 9-11	USAEDC/Attache Conference DC
Sept 8-13	Codex CCPR Meeting Chile

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The Global Update is a publication by the Almond Board of California. For more information, please contact the Almond Board on 209-549-8262 or regulatoryissues@almondboard.com. The information reported in this document is correct to the best of our knowledge. The Almond Board of California welcomes the participation of all industry members and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, religion, age, disability or political beliefs.

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