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Thailand

Numerous changes have taken place in Thailand over the course of the past few weeks let alone a year. These changes vary greatly from new appointments in the administration to emergency budgets to strategic plans for the eradication of bird flu.

As of October 6, 2004, Thailand's Prime Minister, Thaksin Shinawatra, fired his Agriculture and Defense Ministers, Somak Thepsuthin and General Chetta Thanajaro respectively. He replaced Thepsuthin with Wan Muhammad Noor Matha and Thanjaro with General Sanphan Boonyanan, as well as appointing a doctor Surachai Charoenrattanaku, Deputy Minister of Public Health, to supervise the country's bird flu policies. These actions were part of the Prime Minister's plan to eradicate avian influenza by the end of October, and quell the unrest in the southern provinces where there is a Muslim separatist uprising.

Thailand has suffered great economic and industrial losses as a result of the avian influenza epidemic. The fourth largest poultry exporter has suffered a loss of no less than \$880 million U.S. dollars and millions of poultry meat export orders, not to mention the loss of about 30 million birds since the first outbreak and impending additional 7,000 plus ducks slated to be culled October 13, 2004 as well as human lives. In addition, the government has shelled out \$120 million U.S. dollars in subsidies and compensation to farmers.

As of October 19, 2004, Sriracha Tiger Zoo, a private zoo located in central Chonburi province, confirmed its loss of 23 tigers of its 400 tigers to bird flu with another 30 sick tigers still being monitored. The animals contracted the disease by eating infected chicken carcasses.

The Thai government has also responded with a national public relations campaign to keep the public informed of the government's actions and the risks as well as to encourage about 99 percent of the 3.17 million farmers to raise their poultry in closed systems as opposed to open-field feeding systems, in order to better control and minimize the birds' contact with migratory birds as wild birds are carriers of bird flu and water sources can carry the disease for up to 30 days. The government has also organized a million public health volunteers to monitor the health of rural residents on a daily basis.

Thailand has recently vetoed a plan asking the government to budget 300 million baht (\$7.5 million U.S. dollars) to build a new laboratory for avian influenza vaccine research as the proposal was not in accordance with a policy passed this past August banning the use or production of bird flu vaccine. The policy was enacted for fear of the negative impact a bird flu vaccine could have on public health should the disease mutate and impact it would have on poultry trade. The EU warned Thailand that it would extend its ban on Thai chickens should the country carry on with the vaccine experiment. The EU and Japan are major buyers of Thai poultry and currently have not fully lifted their bans.

As of October 12, 2004 the Thai cabinet approved a short-term budget of about \$900 million baht (\$22.4 million U.S. dollars) to aid in the eradication of avian flu in terms of research and development about the virus, protection, monitoring, and the new public relations campaign.

Medium- and long-term measures are currently being drafted and will cost an estimated \$2.4 billion baht. However, the cabinet did approve a study on the use of vaccines to protect poultry though it specified that the vaccines could not be produced or used unless given special permission. Presently, Australia has already developed a trial vaccine candidate, which failed to protect a majority of the flock in which it was tested on; a second vaccine candidate is currently in the works.

The Thai government is also cooperating with the Malaysian government, who has still not been declared free of bird flu even though it meets with OIE standards as it has been free of new cases for 23 days since its last outbreak. The two countries have agreed to the prompt sharing of information and the facilitation of goods transported between them. Thailand will also host a regional conference for all South-east Asian and Asia-Pacific countries on bird flu November 25-26, 2004 to assess how best to stem the spread of the virus.

Source: Various News Wires

Thailand Exports of Chicken and Poultry Meat 2001-2004

	Chicken Meat		Poultry Meat
	Volume (1,000 MT)	Value (1,000 Baht)	Value (1,000 Baht)
2001	272,567	23,934,876	25,592,724
2002	330,338	22,958,936	24,783,685
2003	368,721	24,765,638	26,409,232
2004	7,875	507,133	1,816,936

Source: Thai Customs Department

Vietnam

Much has happened over the course of the past two months in Vietnam. In early August, the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization agreed to extend Vietnam funding to help the country bring bird flu under control. In September 2004, Vietnam declared it had avian influenza under control just in time for the Asia-Europe (ASEM) meetings on October 8-9, 2004.

Between October 4 and 18, the country imported 100,000 breeding fowl from the United Kingdom, France, and Israel to help rejuvenate its poultry stock, in addition to the 300,000 fowl imported since the culmination of bird flu, to help restore Vietnam's poultry stocks. However, outbreaks of avian flu have been reported in Tien Giang, Long An, Soc Tran, Hau Giang, and Ben Tre provinces. Samples were taken from all of the chickens in each province testing positive for avian flu. Government officials are denying it is bird flu, while international disease control experts are charging Hanoi with acting prematurely and recklessly as it will take years to eradicate the virus. Vietnam has lost about 44 million fowl and \$82.8 million U.S. dollars.

On a side note, as of October 7, 2004 Vietnam is now accepting imports of U.S. poultry and poultry products as long as the products conform to OIE guidelines.

Source: USDA FAS/ISID ProMed News/Various News Wires

Vietnam's Production, Exports, and Imports Poultry Meat (MT)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Production	299,440	325,500	365,292	385,371	420,002
Exports	426	90	0	50	0
Imports	722	30	50	50	10,241

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade

U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending October 16, 2004	Year-To-Date			
TYPE	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/	2003
Liquid	547	311	13,565	13,534
Frozen	0	0	11	96
Dried	0	0	588	430
Total	547	311	14,164	14,060

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending October 16, 2004	Year-To-Date			
TYPE	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/	2003
Liquid	59	121	7,009	4,621
Frozen	0	91	1,412	2,943
Dried	0	80	1,853	1,063
Total	59	292	10,274	8,627

Inspected Shell Eggs

U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)

Week Ending October 16, 2004	Year-To-Date			
TYPE	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/	2003
Jumbo	0	17	378	387
Extra Large	1,050	1,790	155,834	24,682
Large	3,029	5,770	315,793	98,786
Medium	1,597	870	103,225	49,212
Ungraded	7,446	6,610	259,608	154,838
Misc	0	0	16,790	13,442
Total	13,122	15,057	851,628	341,347

1/ Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes revisions to previous week(s).

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section
Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 16-Oct-04

(PRELIMINARY)

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
THOUSANDS			
Head	1,305	1,522	2,827
Last Week	1,270	1,512	2,782
Same week yr ago	1,164	1,378	2,542
To-date/2004	55,879	55,524	111,403
To-date/2003	60,301	57,796	118,097

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
THOUSANDS			
Head	82	0	82
Last Week	185	8	193
Same week yr ago	92	0	92
To-date/2004	9,723	99	9,822
To-date/2003	9,609	133	9,742

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
THOUSANDS			
Head	1,387	1,522	2,909
Last Week	1,455	1,520	2,975
Same week yr ago	1,256	1,378	2,634
To-date/2004	65,602	55,623	121,225
To-date/2003	69,910	57,929	127,839

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch

CENTRAL REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE CENTRAL REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

Oct 22, 2004

CHICKEN — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	17.00	18.00-19.00	142,400	-
WTD AVERAGE	17.00	18.67		
15-20%				
RANGE	13.75-22.00	11.00-18.00	3,024,800	1,760,000
WTD AVERAGE	18.33	13.11		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	14.50	40,800	-
WTD AVERAGE		14.50		

* INCLUDES THE STATES of AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI

EASTERN REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE EASTERN REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

Oct 22, 2004

CHICKEN — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	18.50	22.00	448,000	208,000
WTD AVERAGE	18.50	22.00		
15-20%				
RANGE	17.75-21.50	18.00-21.00	2,196,000	1,716,000
WTD AVERAGE	18.93	19.50		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	17.50	200,000	-
WTD AVERAGE		17.50		

* INCLUDES THE STATES of CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS AND BULK MEAT, FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS AS OF 22 OCTOBER 2004.

The market tone on tom drums continued steady to barely steady, tom necks steady and tom full-cut wings steady to fully steady. The market on hen bulk parts was fully steady to firm on wings, balance steady. Demand light to moderate. Offerings of tom drums were light to fully adequate mostly adequate to fully adequate, tom necks adequate, tom wings light. Offerings of hen bulk parts ranged from short on hen 2-joint wings to light at best. Export demand was light to fair with interest noted from Canada on fresh tom breast meat. Some industry members have noted crossing delays at the Mexican border which is resulting in a back-up of product waiting to cross. Others, meanwhile report product delivery problems due to truck shortages. Trading slow to moderate. For domestic: livers 24-25 delivered pet foods, Grade A non-basted 10-12 lb. breasts 125, plant grade non-basted 12-14 lb. breasts 120, Grade a fresh hen WOGs 83-88, frozen 18-20 lb. WOGs 77, fresh wing meat with skin 120, fresh scapula 113-124 mostly 117-124, fresh breast trim 130-142 mostly 130-133 cents delivered. Fresh tom drums traded 41 cents delivered export.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2004**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICE	WEEKLY VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		W	40.00	104	40.00	104
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS						
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM						
TAILS						
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/	19.50-21.00		20.58	144	20.80	300
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	81.00-84.00		82.00	200	81.59	252

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2004**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		W	40.00	104
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS		R	26.70	92
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		W	21.00	156
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		T	80.00	52

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2004**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	40.00		40.00	104
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS		R	26.70	92
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/	21.00		21.00	156
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		T	80.00	52

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		T	45.00	20
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS		R	26.70	92
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		F	20.25	80
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	80.00		80.00	52

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2004**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		T	45.00	20
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS		R	26.70	92
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		F	20.25	80
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		F	80.00	80

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.): M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R=THURSDAY F=FRIDAY

2/ Product contains 15-20% fat with skin added.