

Farm Progress Friday

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on the business of agriculture

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Moran: There will be tariff exclusion process

Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., who chairs the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, says he has secured a commitment from U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer that there will be an exclusion process for the new round of tariffs.

The exact rules for the exclusion process are forthcoming. The process allows businesses that are negatively impacted by tariffs on products they import to apply for an exclusion, which the USTR will either award or deny. There is no cap or limit on how many businesses can apply to be excluded, but each request will be individually evaluated, according to a spokeswoman for Moran. If an exclusion is granted, it would apply to the entire tariff code.

Price tag for next round of trade aid at least \$15 billion

The National Corn Growers Association is calling on members to tell President Donald Trump that #apennywontcutit. On May 10, the Trump administration raised the tariff on \$200 billion of Chinese goods to 25%. China retaliated by raising duties on U.S. products. Later in the day, the administration announced it would put together another trade aid package for farmers, who have been caught in the crosshairs of the trade war. During the first round of trade aid, the bulk of payments went to soybean growers and pork producers.

Now, other commodity groups are calling for equal treatment, and the National Farmers Union supports this effort, with NFU President Roger Johnson saying, "We ask that trade assistance be offered to producers of all affected commodities." Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue says the package is in the works and will likely be in the range of \$15 billion to \$20 billion. The first trade aid package was budgeted at \$12 billion.

Jury awards couple \$2 billion in Roundup suit

A jury in Oakland, Calif., awarded Alva and Alberta Pilliod \$2 billion in a trial over whether Roundup causes cancer. The takeaway: The jury that spent weeks listening to Bayer's assurances that Roundup has been scientifically proven safe didn't buy it. The panel deliberated for less than two days and decided to punish the company with the eighth-largest product-defect verdict in U.S. history for covering up Roundup's health risks for decades. The company stands a good chance of getting the damages reduced.

Two previous trials in San Francisco over the herbicide yielded combined damages of \$159 million. Bayer is appealing those verdicts and vowed to challenge Monday's as well. In a statement, the company said the verdict "conflicts directly with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's interim registration review released just last month, the consensus among leading health regulators worldwide that glyphosate-based products can be used safely and that glyphosate is not carcinogenic."

European Commission won't renew duties on U.S. ethanol

The European Commission issued a decision May 14 to not renew anti-dumping duties on European

Union imports of U.S. ethanol. The decision stems from the commission's expiry review of the anti-dumping action taken in 2013, which has been in place since then. In announcing its decision, the commission found no evidence that warranted continuation of those duties, and said the removal of duties would not encourage dumping in the EU.

U.S. ethanol industry leaders praised the decision, saying it's a move toward "free and fair competition." However, a European renewable energy industry group says the decision is bad for the EU's ethanol industry, farmers and climate ambitions. The group, ePure, says the decision comes when other key U.S. export markets — including Brazil, China, Peru and Colombia — have introduced or are considering measures to protect themselves from unfair U.S. ethanol exports. The group says the move "would deal another blow to European farmers at a time when the EU is proposing to drastically cut the budget and support for the sector."

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