



Foreign Agricultural Service
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Ceiling for Agricultural Gifts under Anti-Corruption Act Increased to 100,000 Won

<http://news.donga.com/3/all/20171212/87685284/1>

Summary: The Korean government decided on December 11 to increase the ceiling for agricultural gifts allowed to people in the public service and the press under Anti-corruption Act from 50,000 won to 100,000 won. The decision was to promote local agriculture. Since implementation of the Act in 2016, local agricultural suppliers have reportedly seen significant reduction in their sales particularly during important gift-giving seasons, including Lunar New Year's Day. Agricultural gifts include not only fresh, unprocessed agricultural products but also processed products that are made from agricultural, livestock, or seafood ingredients. The agricultural, livestock, and seafood ingredients used in the processing should account for 50 percent of the final product by weight. The new ceiling applied to both local and imported agricultural products will come to effect before the coming Lunar New Year's Day (February 2018).

A Duck Farm in Youngam, Junranamdo Province Tested Positive for High Pathogen AI

<http://news.donga.com/3/all/20171212/87685556/1>

Summary: The Korean Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) reported on December 11 that a duck farm in Youngam, Junranamdo province tested positive for high-pathogen H5N6 Avian Influenza infection. Another farm in Gochang, Junrabukdo province tested positive for the same AI virus infection earlier on November 19. MAFRA pointed out that the Youngam duck farm had supplied chicks to about a dozen breeding farms over the last month. MAFRA is testing these breeding farms for potential AI infections.

Blue Bottle to Open Its First Store in Seoul by March 2018

<http://news.hankyung.com/article/2017120485541>

Summary: Blue Bottle, a leading specialty coffee café franchise in the U.S., is reportedly planning to open its first store in Seoul by March 2018. Blue Bottle Korea has been recently established and has nominated a former Nestle Korea executive, Jungpyo Hong, as its president. Blue Bottle was acquired by Nestle International in October 2017.

South Korea to Resume \$1 Trillion International Trade in 2017

http://www.edaily.co.kr/news/news_detail.asp?newsId=02919206616154256&mediaCodeNo=257&OutLnkChk=Y

Summary: Korea International Trade Association (KITA) reported that Korea's international trade was likely to resume \$1 trillion level this year. According to KITA, Korea's international trade in 2017 through November amounted to \$52 billion for exports and \$43 billion for imports, up 17 percent and 18 percent respectively from the same period in 2016. South Korea's international trade saw a decline over the last two years after hitting \$1 trillion in 2014.

Korean Exports to 52 Countries that have Signed FTAs with Korea Account for 73 Percent of Korean Overall Exports

<http://www.yonhapnews.co.kr/bulletin/2017/10/27/0200000000AKR20171027161800003.HTML?input=1195m>

Summary: According to the Korea International Trade Association, Korean exports to 52 countries with which Korea has signed Free Trade Agreements from January to September this year amounted to \$312.3 billion, accounting for 72.6% of total Korean exports (\$430.2 billion) over the same period. This shows Korea's increasing reliance on exports to those countries, considering that exports (\$350.4 billion) to those countries during the last year accounted for 70.7% of total exports. While exports to those countries up to September of this year increased by 21.7% over the same period from last year, imports from those countries increased only by 17.5%. Exports to China amounted to \$101.7 billion, followed by the United States with \$52.2 billion.

Expiration Date on Fresh Shell Eggs is Marked Based on the Date of Egg Laying

http://www.newsis.com/view/?id=NISX20171102_0000136942&cID=13001&pID=13000

Summary: The Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety announced that starting from January 1, 2019, labeling standards for the expiration date on fresh shell eggs will be changed from the existing pack date (the day that the eggs are washed, graded, and placed in the carton) to the date when the eggs are laid. Once an egg has been washed or refrigerated, the egg is required to be stored and distributed under refrigeration. With this revision, when eggs with a fine crack or thin shell are used as an ingredient of egg processing products, the eggs are required to be processed within 24 hours (72 hours, if refrigerated) after being supplied. After egg breaking process, the yolks and whites should be cooled to under five degrees Celsius and be processed within 72 hours.

Income of One-Person Households Falls 3.5 Percent in Q3

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20171128000167>

Summary: South Korea's single-person households saw their income drop at the fastest clip in about four years in the third quarter, government data showed. The average income of such households stood at 1.68 million won (\$1,540) in the July-September period, down 3.51 percent from the same period a year earlier, according to the data from Statistics Korea. It marks the biggest year-on-year drop since a 3.54 percent decline during the fourth quarter of 2015. The drop in one-person households' income was attributed to a 4.4 percent fall in earned income, which takes up the bulk of their earnings. The agency said it is also closely related to the country's fast population aging, which has led to a jump in the number of single-person households comprised of elderly people. "A considerable number of one-person households are comprised of seniors aged 60 or older, but most of them have low-paying jobs," an agency official said. "This factor probably impacted a slowdown in income growth of single-person households." South Korea is tipped to become an aged society in 2017, and is forecast to become a super-aged society in 2026, with the ratio of people aged 65 and older hovering above 20 percent of its 50 million population.

Lotte Mart Launches Iberico Pork Imported from Spain

<http://news.hankyung.com/article/2017113073951>

Summary: Lotte Mart announced on December 1 that it had launched Iberico pork meat imported from Spain. Lotte Mart pointed out that Iberico pork is a premium meat that is grown cage free with acorn/olive feed. Lotte Mart offers the meat at 3,300 won per 100 gram.

The information in this report was compiled by the [Agricultural Trade Office \(ATO\)](#) at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea. The press summaries contained herein do NOT reflect USDA, the U.S. Embassy, or other U.S. government agency official policy or view point. U.S. food exporters can learn more about market opportunities in South Korea by reviewing ATO Seoul's [Exporter Guide](#) and other reports available at www.fas.usda.gov by clicking on "attaché reports."