

MARKET NEWS

January 2026



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2026



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Focus on China

China drafting new national food prep standards

China is to draft new national standards covering meals prepared in the catering sector, the State Council's Food Safety Commission Office and the State Administration for Market Regulation announced on Thursday.

Regulators have also prepared a separate parallel notice aimed at increasing transparency in the catering sector.

Co-drafted with the market regulator and the Ministry of Commerce, the notice would require restaurants to provide accessible details on how dishes are processed and prepared.

China's grain output hits new high in 2025

BEIJING -- China recorded another bumper grain harvest last year, pushing output to a new high despite bouts of drought, flooding and prolonged rainfall in parts of the country, official data showed Thursday.

Grain production reached about 714.9 million tonnes in 2025, an increase of 8.4 million tonnes from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. The output has stayed above 700 million tonnes for two consecutive years.



The achievement was hard-won, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Zhang Xingwang said at a press conference on Thursday.

Zhang attributed most of the production increase to autumn harvests, which accounted for more than 90 percent of the annual grain output growth.

Output growth was mostly reported in the three Northeast China provinces, Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang, which together contributed nearly 70 percent of the national increase. By crop, corn played a dominant role, with production making up about 75 percent of the total growth.

According to the press conference, soybean output reached 20.91 million tonnes last year, remaining above 20 million tonnes for a fourth consecutive year. Combined output of pork, beef, mutton and poultry climbed to 100.72 million tonnes, up 4.2 percent year on year.

Faster adoption of agricultural technology has continued to lift productivity, Zhang said, citing advances in agricultural machinery and smart farming applications, as well as the growing use of low-altitude technologies.

In 2025, the contribution rate of agricultural scientific and technological progress exceeded 64 percent, while the comprehensive mechanization rate of crop cultivation and harvesting reached 76.7 percent. China's fleet of agricultural drones surpassed

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300,000 units, with annual operating coverage exceeding 460 million mu, or 30.67 million hectares.

Steady agricultural development has also supported rural income growth and rural revitalization.

Official data shows that value-added output of major agricultural and sideline food processors rose 5.6 percent from a year earlier in 2025, while new industries such as rural tourism and e-commerce continued to expand, boosting local employment. Rural residents' per capita disposable income logged a real-term increase of 6 percent.

Moreover, living conditions in rural areas also improved, with sanitary toilet coverage rising to about 77 percent and continued upgrades to infrastructure and public services, including education, healthcare and elderly care.

Notably, China has continued to consolidate gains from poverty alleviation, with 832 counties which have been lifted out of poverty cultivating two to three leading industries with strong spillover effects. Employment among people lifted out of poverty has remained stable, with more than 30 million workers employed for five consecutive years.

Looking ahead, Zhang said the ministry will accelerate agricultural and rural modernization and advance rural vitalization, with efforts focused on stabilizing grain and key agricultural product supplies, strengthening agricultural sci-tech innovation and technology



application, raising farmers' incomes, improving rural living environments, and preventing large-scale poverty relapse.

Rural reforms will also be promoted to unleash more development momentum, such as expanding pilot programs to extend rural land contract terms for another 30 years.

International News

FDA Announces Australia Certificate Requirements for Bivalve Molluscs and Bivalve Mollusc Products Imported into Australia

The Australia Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) will require an official certificate for imports of bivalve molluscs and bivalve molluscs products effective February 16, 2026. DAFF has agreed to accept an FDA-issued "Certificate to a Foreign Government" (CFG) for U.S. exports of FDA-regulated bivalve molluscs and bivalve molluscs products.

To meet Australian biosecurity conditions for bivalve molluscs, only non-viable (dead) molluscs are permitted entry. Non-viable bivalve molluscs are those that have undergone processing such as shucking, chilling, freezing, cooking, marinating, and smoking. Oysters must be flesh only (no shell) and other bivalve molluscs can only include shell if they are frozen. Details on biosecurity conditions for bivalve molluscs can be found in the department's BICON system under

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seafood (excluding finfish) for human consumption [BICONExternal Link Disclaimer](#).

Bivalve molluscs and bivalve molluscs products that are covered by the certification requirement include:

- Bivalve molluscs – clams, cockles, mussels, oysters, pipi, and scallops.
- Bivalve mollusc products – foods containing any bivalve molluscs; for example, seafood mixes (such as marinara mix) that contain bivalve molluscs as an ingredient.

Products that are excluded include bivalve molluscs that are both retorted and shelf stable, or dried.

Industry may request a CFG for these covered products by submitting an online application in the HFP Export Certification Application and Tracking System (HFP eCATS). Please visit [Online Applications for Export Certificates for Food](#) for a link to HFP eCATS and general instructions for submitting an application. U.S. applicants should select “Seafood” as the product type. Please see below for information required by DAFF for these products and instructions on how to provide this information in HFP eCATS.

Additional Certification Statements for Bivalve Molluscs and Bivalve Molluscs Products



For a list of certification data elements required by DAFF and additional information, please refer to FDA's [Food Export Library](#) webpage. Please note that DAFF also requires an additional certification statement for bivalve molluscs and bivalve molluscs products, based on an applicant's attestation that the products were harvested from an area meeting U.S. shellfish standards. Applicants should copy and paste the following statement into the “Additional Information for Certificate” free-text field box in the “Additional Information” section of the application.

“The product(s) described above, have been harvested from an area classified as suitable and open at the time of harvest, in accordance with U.S. shellfish sanitation controls.”

Applicants will be required to attest that the above statement they requested to print on the certificate is factual when they electronically sign the HFP eCATS application.

Additional Information

- [Food Export Library](#)
- [Online Applications for Export Certificates for Food](#)

Enterprise News

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Recalled tuna sent to stores

Tri-Union Seafoods is cautioning consumers that a third-party distributor inadvertently released quarantined product that was associated with a February 2025 recall.

The initial recall was conducted following notification from the supplier that the pull tab can lid on limited products had a manufacturing defect that may compromise the integrity of the product seal (especially over time), causing it to leak and be contaminated with clostridium botulinum, that causes botulism poisoning.

There is concern that consumers may still have the product in their homes because of its long shelf life, which stretches into 2028. Consumers should not use the product even if it does not look or smell spoiled.

This current recall was initiated after Tri-Union Seafoods discovered that quarantined cases, associated with the initial recall, were inadvertently shipped by a third-party distributor. The impacted products were distributed to limited retail stores as follows:

- Meijer – Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin
- Giant Foods – Maryland and Virginia
- Safeway, Albertsons, Vons, and Pavilions – California

Recalled products include specific can codes and Best if Used By dates indicated on the bottom of the cans, and UPC numbers listed in the chart below.

Description	UPC	Can Code	Best if Used By Date
Genova Yellowfin Tuna in Olive Oil 5.0 oz 4 Pack	4800073265	S84N D2L	1/21/2028
		S84N D3L	1/24/2028
Genova Yellowfin Tuna in Extra Virgin Olive Oil with Sea Salt 5.0 oz	4800013275	S88N D1M	1/17/2028

Spring & Mulberry expands recall of chocolate bars over Salmonella concerns

Spring & Mulberry is expanding a recall of select date-sweetened chocolate bars because of possible contamination with Salmonella. The update, announced Jan. 14, 2026, broadens [the original recall](#) issued just two days earlier on Jan. 12, which was limited to one lot of the Mint Leaf flavor.

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The potential contamination was initially identified through routine third-party testing by the company's contract manufacturer, which found a positive result for *Salmonella* in the finished product.

The affected products were sold online and through select retail partners nationwide beginning Sept. 15, 2025. They can be identified by the brand name Spring & Mulberry, along with specific flavor names, lot codes (printed on the back of the packaging and inner flow wrap), and distinctive box colors.

The expanded recall includes the following flavors and lot numbers:

- Earl Grey (#025258) — Purple box
- Lavender Rose (#025259, #025260) — Light Blue box
- Mango Chili (#025283) — Orange box
- Mint Leaf (#025255) — Teal box
- Mixed Berry (#025275, #025281, #025337) — Purple box
- Mulberry Fennel (#025345) — Burgundy box
- Pecan Date (#025261, #025265, #025267, #025268, #025339, #025343) — Yellow box
- Pure Dark Minis (#025273) — Blue box

As of the posting of this recall, no confirmed illnesses or adverse health effects have been reported.



Consumers who have purchased the affected lots should not consume the products and should dispose of them immediately. Refunds or replacements are available by contacting Spring & Mulberry at recalls@springandmulberry.com, including a photo of the lot code.

Cheese recalled because of *Listeria* contamination

The Ambriola Company is recalling select cheese products, including some Boar's Head brand cheese, after routine testing confirmed the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes*.

No illnesses have been reported to date. There is concern that consumers may still have the recalled products in their homes because of their long shelf life, which stretches into May this year.

Ambriola has suspended production and distribution of affected products as the company conducts a review of all sanitation and food safety procedures.

For photos of all of the recalled products, [click here](#). The affected products were distributed to retail stores and distributors nationwide between Nov. 3, 2025, and Nov. 20, 2025, and include:

Retail Product (Exact Weight)	Expiration Dates

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Retail Product (Exact Weight)	Expiration Dates
Locatelli Pecorino Romano Grated 4 oz. cup	05/03/26, 05/10/26, 05/17/26
Locatelli Grated Pecorino Romano 8 oz. cup	Floor Display Shipper Dated Production 04/06/26, 04/11/26, 04/12/26, 04/15/26, 04/17/26 Regular Stock Dated Product 05/05/26, 05/06/26, 05/07/26, 05/10/26 05/12/26, 05/14/26, 05/17/26
Boar's Head Grated Pecorino Romano 6 oz. cup	03/04/26, 03/12/2026
Members Mark 1.5 lb. Bag	03/25/26, 03/30/26, 04/05/26

Product Sold by Variable Random Weights	Bulk Product-Expiration Dates
Locatelli Grated Pecorino Romano	03/04/26, 03/06/26, 03/11/26, 03/13/26
Ambriola Grated Pecorino Romano	02/28/26, 03/04/26, 03/11/26
Pinna Grated Pecorino Romano	03/11/26

MARKET NEWS - REPLY

If you have any views or comments on the articles in the marketing news please feel free to contact us on the following email address:
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