Release No. 0048.04Voluntary Report - public distributionDate: 7/16/2004GAIN Report Number: PL4022PL2004PolandProduct BriefDried Fruits and Nuts2004Approved by:Charles Rush, Acting Agricultural CounselorU.S. EmbassyPrepared by:Jolanta Figurska, Marketing SpecialistCharlene Kastanek, Agricultural InternReport Highlights:Overall Polish imports of dried fruits and nuts increased 6.5 percent in 2003. US exporters have more opportunities to enter the market due to the May 1, 2004, accession of Poland to the EU. Demand for these products generally increased between January and May, stimulated by the Carnival SeasonIncludes PSD Changes: NoIncludes Trade Matrix: NoUnscheduled ReportWarsaw [PL1][PL]Section I. Market OverviewQuick snacks and foods are showing continued expansion in the Polish food industry. Polish consumers perceive dried fruit & nuts as a positive, healthy form of food "on the go." As a result, this sector shows overall growth. Total imports of dried fruit & nuts in 2003 were 77,286 MT, a 6.5 percent increase from 2002. This developing market has brought forth a variety of changes, including bulk packaging. While bulk packaging brings in a higher quantity of product, it has proven to decrease overall quality. The lack of a tariff for raw shelled and unshelled peanuts and newly decreased tariffs for walnuts, pistachios, raisins, dried prunes, and mixed nuts due to the May 1, 2004, EU accession, may offer U.S. dried fruit and nut suppliers the opportunity to capture a larger market share in Poland.Market research shows that about 32 percent of the Polish population buys a variety of nuts and dried fruits throughout the year. Nearly 65 percent of the Polish pOffice of Communications (202) 720-4623

**BSE Update – Wednesday, January 28, 2004**

Depopulation Activities

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2004, 15 animals of interest were euthanized and sampled from the Moxee, WA, facility. In addition to this facility, USDA has previously conducted selective depopulatiopulation purchases nuts once a month, 25 percent purchases nuts once a week, and 7 percent purchases nuts more than once a week. Among the nuts available on the Polish market, the following are the most popular: peanuts, walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds, and pistachios. No detailed data on dried fruit consumption is available. The most popular dried fruits on the Polish market are: raisins, prunes, dates, apricots, figs, apples, and pears. Dried cranberries are occasionally offered on the market, however; due to the implementation of an ad valorem tariff which is being applied to certain US products in retaliation for unfair trade activities by the US; the potential for expansion in this area has been limited. Demand for these products greatly increases between January and May. This is stimulated by Carnival season, Easter holidays, and a decrease in fresh fruit consumption during this period. Polish consumers, ages 15 to 19, are the biggest consumers of dried fruit and nuts. This age group likes the health food aspect and use of nuts and dried fruit as snacks. In addition, these products are also quite popular with the 20-49 year old age group. Consumption in the age group above 50 years is very marginal. Consumption decreases at this age mainly due to low-income levels and no tradition of using nuts and dried fruit as snacks. Market research results show that these products are most popular in medium (population above 500,000 people) and larger cities among consumers with at least high school education and college degrees within the medium and high-income levels.
Section II. Market Sector Opportunities and Threats1) Entry StrategyLaon activities at these facilities:

Sunnyside, WA (bull calf premises) - a total of 449 animals depopulated

Mabton, WA (index premises) - a total of 131 animals depopulated

Mattawa, WA - a total of 39 animals depopulated

Connell, WA - a total of 15 animals depopulated

Boardman, OR - a total of 20 animals depopulated

Quincy, WA – a total of 18 animals depopulated

Tenino, WA – a total of 4 animals depopulated

OR; Quincy, WA; Tenino, WA; and Moxee, WA are not yet availableProducts from companies outside of Poland primarily dominate the energy bar market, however; Polish companies are starting to produce these bars under their own brands. Chocolate manufacturers are also starting to look for high quality ingredients to ensure longer shelf life of their products. This has led to an increased demand for high quality nuts as raw materials. Due to increased local demand, Polish importers have become more interested in larger orders increasing the demand for direct shipments from the US.Section III. Costs & PricesCosts of dried fruits and nuts vary by the market in which they are sold (upper, middle, lower income), in addition to the brand they carry. However, overall price fluctuation is moderate. The following depicts retail prices for dried fruit and nuts in July 2004. Table II. Retail Prices
Source: FAS Warsaw Field ResearchPoland’s import tariffs on dried fruit and nuts are drastically reduced due to the May 1, 2004, EU accession. As a result of the accession, EU member states receive duty free market access. Table III. Dried Fruits and Nut Tariffs
\*Other Almonds, in shell and shelled, have a quota of 900,000 tons, with a tariff quota 2%.\*\*In addition to this tariff an ad valorem tariff is being applied to this product. The additional tariff for the month of July 2004, is 9%, and will increase by 1% each month until it reaches 17% in March 2005. On March 1,2005, this additional tariff is subject to revision.Section IV. Market AccessThe Polish government works to ensure the safety and quality of food for Polish consumers through a number of regulatory means. Information specifically pertaining to Poland may .

Investigation Activities

At this time, 28 of the 81 animals that came from Canada have been located:

1 of the be obtained from FAS’s Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report for Poland, which will be updated to reflect the new EU regulations in August 2004. Most of the newer measures are the same as those observed in the European Union. The most important EU regulations can be found in FAS’s FAIRS report for the European Union, which can be found at the following address http://www.useu.be/agri/usda.html. - Registration of a new imported product:All imported products must be approved for sale or use on the Polish market. Registration and approval of imported products is much simpler if the product has already received approval for sale in another EU nation. In order to test or register a new product or start procedures for receiving approval of a new additive, (not specified in the approved additives list), the following procedure should be followed:Appropriate Voivod Sanitary Station should be contacted. In Warsaw - the Wojewodzka Stacja Sanitarna (SANEPID) is the appropriate contact.An appropriate local sanitary station must be supplied with a product sample for testing. The tests can take between 2 weeks and 2 months. The cost is difficult to estimate but may amount to $250.00 per product. An estimate of the cost can be obtained from the SANEPID station when it is presented with product details. The lab tests for product ingredients determine whether they are permitted on the Polish market. If it is determined that all the ingredients are allowed on the Polish market, SANEPID test results are sufficient for the product to be sold in Poland. However, should some ingredients be questioned, additional requests must be submi81 is the BSE-positive cow and was located in the Index herd in Mabton, Washington.

9 of the 81 were located in the Index herd in Mabton, Washington.

3 were located at a facility in Tenino, Washington.

6 were located at a facility in Connell, Washington.

1 was locatedtted to State Hygiene Office (Panstwowy Zaklad Higieny).Please note that product testing in SANEPID can only be ordered by a firm registered in Poland (eg. potential importer). Each region in Poland has appropriate sanitary stations (a list is available from Warsaw SANEPID)- eg. Only firms registered in Warsaw or neighboring areas can conduct product testing in the Warsaw Sanitary Station).Effective July 15, 1994 per Journal of Law no. 86 chapter 402, all package/canned food products are required to have Polish language labels. Multi-language labels are acceptable as long as they include Polish. The label must contain: name of the product, name and address of the producer, date - to be consumed before - the Polish phrase “nalezy spozyc do XXX” is commonly used, net content (weight/capacity), and content of the product (ingredients, chemical additives, etc.)Labeling must be applied in the form of a whole label or a permanent sticker before the product can enter Poland. Products arriving in Poland without appropriate labels will be detained at the border until appropriate labels are applied.Poland’s Ministry of Health and Social Welfare published a new regulation (Journal of Law no. 87 dtd. May 19, 2003) on food additives on June 3, 2003. Poland uses a positive-additives list, which identifies additives that are permitted for use in foodstuffs. This particular regulation has been one of the most difficult obstacles facing imported products. The new list is in line with the current EU regulations. Please note: As each EU member state has a different list of allowable food additives it is vital for all U.S. exporters to check with the potential Pol at a facility in Quincy, Washington.

3 were located at a facility in Mattawa, Washington.

1 was located at a facility in Moxee, Washington.

3 are located at a facility in Burley, Idaho.

1 is located at a facility in Othello, Washington.

Guidelines on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) issued by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the international animal heath standard setting organization, state that animals born on a premises within one year (before or after) of a BSE-affected animal can be considered of significant interest to the country reporting the BSE detection. As such, USDA is focusing on 25 of the 81 animals also born into the birth herd of the index animal. Based on normal culling practices of local dairies, USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service estimated that the Agency would be able to locate approximately 11 of these animals. APHIS has definitively located 14 of these animals.

Trade Issues

Specific trade information can be found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/bse/bse\_trade\_ban\_statusish importers about whether the product intended for the Polish market meets all the ingredient requirements. If you would like to contact authorities directly involved in preparing regulations on food additives and inspection of additive levels in imported products, please contact the National Food and Nutrition Institute.Section V. Key Contacts and Further InformationEmbassy of the United States of AmericaOffice of Agricultural Affairs, Warsaw, PolandWayne Molstad e-mail: agwarsaw@usda.gov or agwarsaw@poczta.onet.pltel: 48 22 504 2336, fax: 48 22 504 2320 Mazowiecka Sanitary Station - SANEPID - actual tests & check upsMr. Krzysztof Dziubinski, Acting Voividship Sanitary Inspectorul. Zelazna 79 00-875 Warsawph: 4822-6201656, 6209001 ext. 42fax: 4822-6248209www.wsse-wawa@supermedia.plInstitute of Food and Nutrition-Dr. Lucjan Szponar, DirectororMs. Katarzyna StosSection for Food and Nutrition Managerul. Powsinska 61/6302-903 Warsawph: 4822-5509677, 8420571, 8422171fax: 4822-8421103fax: 4822-423742For aflatoxin information please contact:State Hygiene Office (Panstwowy Zaklad Higieny) PZH Prof. Jan Krzysztof Ludwicki, Director, ph: 48228497084Ms. Katarzyna Czaja, chemical residue lab, ph: 48228493332 Ms. Krystyna Rybinska, Food Testing Unitul. Chocimska 24Warsawph: 48228494051 ext. 359, 339fax: 48228493513, 8497441Main Sanitary Inspection (Glowny Inspektor Sanitarny GIS) Mr. Andrzej Trybusz ul. Dluga 38/4000238 Warsawph: 48226351559fax: 48226356194Polish Center for Research and Certification Ms. Ewa SlowinskaManager Food Departmentul. Klobucka 23A02699 Warsawph: 48226470722, 8579916fax: 48226471109email: cert.wyr@pcbc.gov.plwww.pcbc.gov.pl .html.

Other Issues

Additional information on BSE can be obtained by visiting the USDA website at http://www.usda.gov. Past BSE updates can also be found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov.

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