EU Food and Feed Safety Omnibus: Why It Matters for Agricultural Trade

Our Position — CLA Supports:

- **Advancing science- and risk-based regulation of pesticides and agricultural goods.**
- **Supporting science-based maximum residue levels (MRLs) and import tolerances, including internationally recognized *Codex Alimentarius* standards, allowing for more open agricultural trade that supports global food security.**
- **Upholding European Food Safety Authority MRL recommendations based on rigorous scientific assessment.**

What is a maximum residue level (MRL)?

A maximum residue level (MRL) is the highest amount of a specific pesticide residue permitted on an agricultural product. Countries and regions use MRLs to inspect products at trade border checkpoints. MRLs set by the United States and by Codex reflect real-world use. They are regulatory levels, often set well below safety thresholds, to account for a diverse diet.

What is *Codex Alimentarius*?

The *Codex Alimentarius* is a set of international food safety recommendations to protect consumer health and facilitate fair trade, managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Countries can choose whether to use all or parts of it in their own food safety standards.

What's Happening

→ On Dec. 16, 2025, the European Commission released its "Food and Feed Safety Simplification Package" (a.k.a the Omnibus).

→ After banning many widely used crop protection tools with its own "hazard-based" approach, the EU is proposing restrictions that could prevent imported agricultural products treated with those pesticides from entering the European market.

→ At the same time, the EU still maintains a loophole of "emergency use" of pesticides for European farmers only.

→ The U.S. and other countries that export to the EU often have different climate and pest burdens than the EU. If the EU removes MRLs for important pesticides, it could negatively impact production, U.S. businesses, and global food security.

→ To illustrate the real-world impact of MRL changes, apple shipments from the Pacific Northwest to the EU decreased by over 93% since 2009, largely due to shifts like this.[1]

Did You Know?

In 2025, the U.S. exported **$14.5 billion** in agricultural products to the EU.[2]

Based on our initial projections, roughly **2,400 more MRLs** for U.S. commodities could be eliminated, **impacting as much as $8 billion in U.S. exports.**[3]

1. Northwest Horticultural Council; U.S. Apple Association, 2. USDA Economic Research Services, 3. Analysis by DTB AgriTrade for CLA using data from the FoodChain ID Regulatory Limits MRL Database.