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China expected to divert outstanding U.S. soybean cargoes into reserves



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Automakers say Trump's threatened Mexico tariffs would cost billions

DETROIT (Reuters) - Toyota Motor Corp said on Tuesday that U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal to slap tariffs on Mexican-made goods could cost its major suppliers \$1 billion, highlighting growing concern in the U.S. auto sector about the potential damage of a new front in the Trump administration's trade wars.

Trump has said he will apply tariffs of 5% on Mexican goods on June 10 if Mexico does not halt the flow of illegal immigration, largely from Central America, across the U.S.-Mexican border. Those tariffs would gradually rise to 25% by Oct. 1 if Mexico does not satisfy Trump's demands.

Faced with this threat, major automakers are also planning to delay some vehicle shipments from Mexico, people briefed on the plans told Reuters on Tuesday.

The shipment delays would affect vehicles with high inventory levels on U.S. dealer lots if the tariffs take effect as threatened. Automakers are trying to speed some critical parts shipments this week ahead of the Monday deadline.

Consultancy LMC Automotive said on Tuesday the industry could absorb a 5% percent tariff for a month, but that a sustained period at the 25% tariff level would have a potentially devastating impact on the auto industry and cut U.S. new vehicle sales by up to 1.5 million units annually.

"A prolonged period of tariffs on Mexican imports would likely push Mexico into recession and could also threaten a recession in the United States," LMC said.

In 2018, automakers sold 17.3 million new vehicles in the United States. LMC said prices on models imported from Mexico could increase by an average of \$8,500, while the average price of a vehicle sold in the U.S. market could rise by as much as \$2,500-3,000 when parts for assembly in the United States are factored in.



FILE PHOTO: A carrier trailer transports Toyota cars for delivery while queuing at the border customs control to cross into the U.S., at the Otay border crossing in Tijuana, Mexico May 31, 2019. REUTERS/Jorge Duenes

Uber's IPO underwriters recommend buying, estimate deep losses

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Underwriters of Uber Technologies' initial public offering on Tuesday overwhelmingly recommended the company's shares, even as they estimated deeper losses than previously expected for the ride-hailing service this year.

With the end of a quiet period related to Uber's disastrous IPO last month, at least 16 banks involved in the public listing initiated analyst coverage of the company, all of them positive except for Citi's "neutral" rating.

"Uber is a transformational company that should benefit from secular shifts to the sharing economy (Rides), time saving services (Eats), and more efficient marketplace evolution (Freight)," Bank of America analyst Justin Post wrote in his report, setting a \$53 price target.

Uber's stock was up 2.4% at \$42.22 in afternoon trading, but the shares have dropped 6% from the price set in the May 9 IPO amid investor worries over whether the company is able to make money.

About \$5 billion of Uber's stock market value has evaporated since the hotly anticipated IPO, making that event a major disappointment for the company, its shareholders and underwriters.

"We see Uber as the most attractive Internet IPO since Facebook and believe that concerns related to Uber's profitability outlook pose less risk than Facebook's transition to mobile at that time," wrote Deutsche analyst Lloyd Walmsley, rating it a "buy."

Even as they recommended buying Uber's stock, the analysts initiating coverage on Tuesday estimated deeper losses for the company than the analysts who previously started coverage.

Analysts, on average, now expect Uber to lose more than \$6 billion in 2019, according to Refinitiv data. On Monday, the average estimate - provided by analysts not involved in the IPO - was a loss of \$4.4 billion in 2019.



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China expected to divert outstanding U.S. soybean cargoes into reserves

BEIJING/SINGAPORE (Reuters) - China will stockpile up to 7 million tonnes of soybeans bought from the United States during an earlier truce in the trade war between the nations, two traders familiar with the matter said, rather than crush them for immediate sale as a feed ingredient.

The unusual move to store such large volumes of the U.S. oilseed comes as China faces the specter of a drawn out trade conflict with its second-largest supplier of the commodity after tensions between the two escalated abruptly last month. China typically buys about two thirds of globally traded soybeans to help feed its huge livestock herd, although it has been taking steps to reduce that such as turning to alternative meals and crimping protein levels in feed.

China bought about 14 million tonnes of U.S. soybeans from December as part of the truce in the trade spat between the world's top two economies.

More than 6 million tonnes have already been shipped to China, with most of that processed into oil and feed ingredient soymeal, said a trade source at a state-owned company and another trader at an international trading house.

However, remaining beans booked by state-owned COFCO and Sinograin but not yet shipped will be diverted to state reserves, said a trader familiar with the matter.

A Singapore-based trader at an international trading company who was briefed on the matter confirmed the change in strategy, which took place in May following renewed tensions between Beijing and Washington.

"Whatever volumes of beans that now come from the U.S. go into storage, as they are preparing for a long-drawn trade war," the trader said

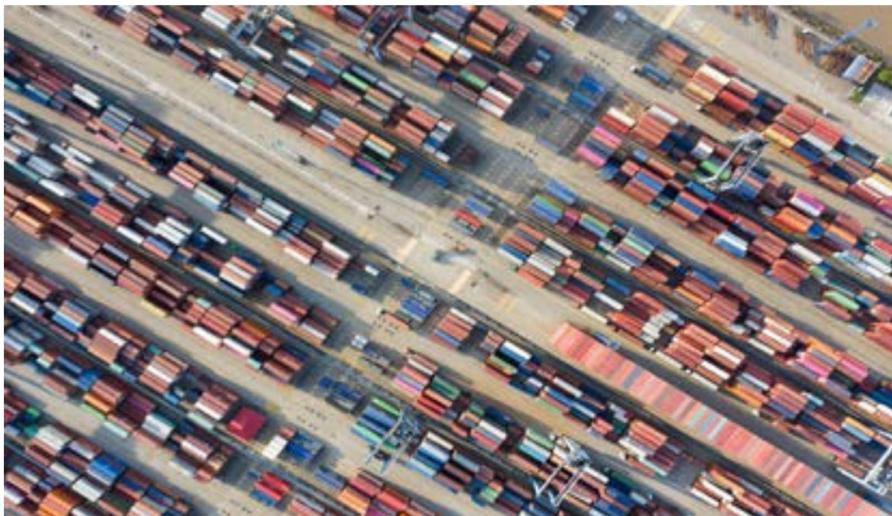
All the traders declined to be identified as they were not authorized to speak to media.

Sinograin, which manages state soy reserves, did not respond to a fax seeking comment on the issue. COFCO did not reply to an email to its media department.

The shift in purchasing strategy followed the sudden escalation in the Sino-U.S. trade war last month, when U.S. President Donald Trump hiked tariffs on imports of Chinese goods, triggering a swift response from Beijing.



FILE PHOTO: A trailer is filled with soybeans at a farm in Buda, Illinois, U.S., July 6, 2018. REUTERS/Daniel Acker/File Photo



Containers are seen at a port in Ningbo, Zhejiang province, China May 28, 2019. Picture taken May 28, 2019. REUTERS/Stringer ATTENTION EDITORS - THIS IMAGE WAS PROVIDED BY A THIRD PARTY.

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Editor's Choice



Demonstrators take part in a protest against U.S. President Donald Trump, in Trafalgar Square, London, Britain, June 4, 2019. REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



WWII D-Day veterans, including Richard Llewellyn and Mervyn Kersh from Britain and Norman Duncan from the U.S., attend a ceremony at Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial situated above Omaha Beach, as France prepares to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day, in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, June 4, 2019. REUTERS/Christian Hartmann TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A man dressed as U.S. President Donald Trump takes part in an anti-Trump protest in London, Britain, June 4, 2019. REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Jaroslaw Walesa, former Polish President Lech Walesa and European Council President Donald Tusk attend the celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the first free democratic parliamentary election in Poland that marked the end of the communist rule,



A girl is seen as Albanian Muslims attend the morning prayers of Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan in Tirana



Tennis - French Open - Roland Garros, Paris, France - June 3, 2019. Amanda Anisimova of the U.S. greets the crowd after winning her fourth round match against Spain's Aliona Bolsova. REUTERS/Vincent Kessler TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

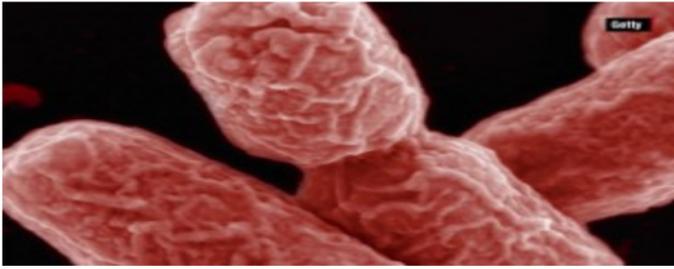


Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks during the closing ceremony of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Gatineau, Quebec, Canada, June 3, 2019. REUTERS/Chris Wattie TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Enthusiasts enjoy a ride on a vintage army vehicle during a re-enactment of D-Day landings in Arromanches, on the Normandy coast, France June 3, 2019. REUTERS/Christian Hartmann

Mystery E. Coli Outbreak Sickens 72 People In 5 States, CDC Says



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

CNN) A multistate outbreak of E. coli has raised alarms and questions: As of Thursday, 72 people in five states have become ill, yet the cause of their infection remains unknown, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Friday.

Symptoms of this bacterial infection, which usually begin about three or four days after consuming the bacteria, can include watery or bloody diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps, nausea and vomiting.

Eight people involved in the mysterious outbreak have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported. People started becoming ill March 2, and the patients range in age from 1 to 74 years old. Additional illnesses tied this outbreak may still be reported, the CDC said.

States reporting sick patients are Georgia (8 patients), Kentucky (36), Ohio (5), Tennessee (21) and Virginia (2).

Government scientists have not identified a food item, grocery store or restaurant chain as the source of these infections. The CDC, state health departments, the US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service and the US Food and Drug Administration are investigating the outbreak.



You do not need to avoid any particular food, the CDC said, and grocery stores, retailers and restaurants do not need to avoid serving or selling any particular food.

Anyone concerned that they might have an E. coli infection should talk to their health care provider. It is important to write down everything you ate in the week before developing symptoms. A medical professional can diagnose you as well as offer advice, including washing your hands, to avoid spreading it to other people.

E. coli are a diverse family of bacteria that can be found in the environment, in foods and in the intestines of people and animals. Most strains are harmless. To avoid becoming

ing infected with a harmful strain, the CDC recommends using proper hygiene; cooking meat at proper temperatures; avoiding raw milk, unpasteurized dairy products and juices; and not swallowing water when swimming.

Most people infected by the bacteria get better within five to seven days. Antibiotics are not recommended for patients with suspected E. coli infections until testing has been performed. (Courtesy cnn.com)

Related

E. Coli Outbreaks: Fast Facts



E. coli outbreaks in the United States

General Information: (from the CDC) There are many strains of the bacteria Escherichia coli (E. coli). Most strains are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals.

Some kinds of E. coli cause disease by producing Shiga toxin. The bacteria that make these toxins are called "Shiga toxin-producing" E. coli (STEC). The most commonly found STEC in the United States is E. coli O157:H7.

The symptoms of STEC infections can include stomach cramps, diarrhea and vom-

iting. Some infections are mild, but others can be life-threatening.

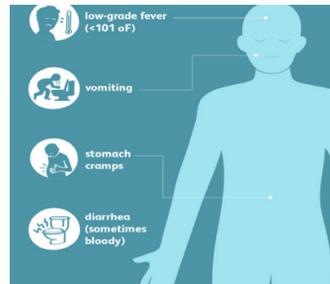
The CDC estimates that 265,000 STEC infections occur each year in the United States. E. coli O157:H7 causes more than 36% of these infections.

People of all ages can be infected, but young children and the elderly are more likely to develop severe symptoms.

The types of E. coli that can cause illness can be transmitted through contaminated water or food, or through contact with people or animals.

Prevention:

To avoid E. coli infections, experts advise to thoroughly cook meat, avoid unpasteurized dairy products and juices, avoid swallowing water while swimming and wash hands regularly.



1998 - The Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points program (HACCP) begins requiring meat processors to establish critical checkpoints in the plants to prevent pathogens from contaminating meat.

- Inspectors from the food-safety agency randomly test all facilities that grind meat

products to make sure that the plants are complying with the HACCP program.

1999 - The USDA approves the irradiation process for meat. Irradiation is a process that uses beams of high-speed electrons to kill E. coli and other bacteria.

May 2000 - Huisken Meats of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, becomes the first meat processor to begin selling irradiated ground beef to retailers.

June 2009 - EpiTopix LLC, a Minnesota-based veterinary pharmaceutical company, begins licensing a new vaccine for cows that reduces the transmission of E. coli between cows and humans.

Timeline of selected E. coli outbreaks in the United States:

Jack in the Box (E. coli O157:H7)

1992-1993 - The Jack in the Box outbreak kills three children and makes about 500 people sick in the Northwest United States. The Jack in the Box incident leads the Bill Clinton administration to begin random testing for E. coli in ground beef.

The meatpacking industry sues the USDA to block the tests. The USDA wins the lawsuit.



ConAgra Beef Co. (E. coli O157:H7)

July 19, 2002 - Nineteen million pounds of meat produced at the ConAgra Beef Co.'s Greeley, Colorado, plant is recalled. At least 35 people become ill due to this meat contamination and one person dies. The contaminated meat is shipped to at least 21 states.

Prepackaged Spinach (E. coli O157:H7)

September 14, 2006 - The FDA issues a warning to consumers about an E. coli O157:H7 outbreak in multiple states. The warning states, "preliminary epidemiological evidence suggests that bagged fresh spinach may be a possible cause of this outbreak."

Romaine Lettuce (E. coli 0157:H7)

April 10, 2018 - The CDC says it's investigating a multistate outbreak of E. coli

infections.

April 13, 2018 - The CDC reports that its investigation is focused on chopped romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Arizona, region. According to the CDC, 35 people from 11 states have fallen ill.

April 18, 2018 - In an update, the CDC reports that 53 people from 16 states have been infected. A total of 95% of those sickened said they ate romaine lettuce before the illness started.



April 20, 2018 - The CDC expands its warning to include all forms of romaine lettuce from the Yuma area, including whole heads and hearts, not just chopped.

May 2, 2018 - The CDC reports an individual in California has died from the outbreak. There are 23 additional cases of E. coli, bringing the total to 121 cases in 25 states.

June 1, 2018 - The CDC reports an increase in the number of infected people to 197 in 35 states. A total of five deaths have been reported.

June 28, 2018 - The CDC announces that the outbreak has ended. Five deaths were reported, and a total of 210 people in 36 states were infected. It's the worst outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 since a 2006 outbreak linked to spinach.

Romaine Lettuce (E. coli 0157:H7)
November 20, 2018 - The CDC, along with the FDA, announces it is investigating a multistate outbreak of E. coli infections most likely linked to romaine lettuce.

November 26, 2018 - In an update, the FDA reports that 43 people from 12 states have been infected.

January 9, 2019 - The CDC announces the outbreak appears to have ended. In total, 62 people in 16 states were infected between October 7, 2018, and December 4, 2018. (Courtesy cnn.com)

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A Government Toxicology Report Found Links Between High Levels Of Nonstick Compounds In People's Blood That Caused Health Problems

FDA: Sampling Finds Toxic Nonstick Compounds In Food



Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler speaks at the National Press Club in Washington, Monday, June 3, 2019. The Food and Drug Administration's first broad testing of food for a worrisome class of nonstick, stain-resistant industrial compounds found high levels in some grocery store meats and seafood and in off-the-shelf chocolate cake. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration found substantial levels of a worrisome class of nonstick, stain-resistant industrial compounds in some grocery store meats and seafood and in off-the-shelf chocolate cake, according to FDA researchers.

The FDA's food-test results are likely to heighten complaints by states and public health groups that President Donald Trump's administration is not acting fast enough or firmly enough to start regulating the manmade compounds.

A federal toxicology report last year cited links between high levels of the compounds in people's blood and health problems, but said it was not certain the nonstick compounds were the cause.

The levels in nearly half of the meat and fish tested were two or more times over the only currently existing federal advisory level for any kind of the widely used manmade com-

pounds, which are called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.



Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler speaks at the National Press Club in Washington, Monday, June 3, 2019. The Food and Drug Administration's first broad testing of food for a worrisome class of nonstick, stain-resistant industrial compounds found high levels in some grocery store meats and seafood and in off-the-shelf chocolate cake. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

The level in the chocolate cake was higher: more than 250 times the only federal guidelines, which are for some PFAS in drinking water.

Food and Drug Administration spokeswoman Tara Rabin said Monday that the agency thought the contamination was "not likely to be a human health concern," even though the tests exceeded the sole existing federal PFAS recommendations for drinking water. As a handful of PFAS contaminations of food emerge around the country, authorities have deemed some a health concern but not others. The agency considers each discovery of the compound in food case by case, including the kind of food, levels of contamination, frequency of consumption and latest scientific information, Rabin said.

There are nearly 5,000 varieties of PFAS, which DuPont created in 1938 and first put into use for nonstick cookware. Industries use them in countless consumer items — food packaging, carpets and couches, dental floss and outdoor gear — to repel grease, water and stains.

The chemicals also are found in firefighting foam, which the Defense department calls irreplaceable in suppressing jet-fuel fires. Especially around military bases and PFAS facilities, decades of use have built up levels in water, soil and some treated sewage sludge used to fertilize non-organic food crops and feed for livestock.

They've been a topic of congressional hearings, state legislation and intense federal and state scrutiny over the past two years.



Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler responds to a question from the audience at the National Press Club in Washington, Monday, June 3, 2019. The Food and Drug Administration's first broad testing of food for a worrisome class of nonstick, stain-resistant industrial compounds found high levels in some grocery store

meats and seafood and in off-the-shelf chocolate cake. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Last year's federal toxicology review concluded the compounds are more dangerous than previously thought, saying consistent studies of exposed people "suggest associations" with some kinds of cancers, liver problems, low birth weight and other issues. The compounds have been dubbed "forever chemicals" because they take thousands of years to degrade, and because some accumulate in people's bodies.

The Environmental Protection Agency earlier established a nonbinding health threshold of 70 parts per trillion for two-phased out forms of the contaminant in drinking water.

The EPA has said it would consider setting mandatory limits instead after the toxicology report and after federally mandated PFAS testing of water systems found contamination. The administration has called dealing with PFAS a "potential public relations nightmare" and a "national priority."

"I know there are people who would like us to move faster" on PFAS, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said Monday at the National Press Club. "We are addressing this much faster than the agency has ever done for a chemical like this."

Impatient for federal action, several states have moved to regulate the chemicals on their own, including setting standards for groundwater or drinking water.

The FDA study sampled market-basket items bought in three, undisclosed mid-Atlantic cities in 2017, testing for PFAS. PFOS — already phased out of production in the U.S. as a health concern — turned up at levels ranging from 134 parts per trillion to 865 parts per trillion in tilapia, chicken, turkey, beef, cod, salmon, shrimp, lamb, catfish and hot dogs. Chocolate cake tested at 17,640 parts per trillion of a kind of PFAS called PFOA.



FILE - This Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018, file photo shows the U.S. Food and Drug Administration building behind FDA logos at a bus stop on the agency's campus in Silver Spring, Md. The Food and Drug Administration's first broad testing of food for a worrisome class of nonstick, stain-resistant industrial compounds found high levels in some grocery store meats and seafood and in off-the-shelf chocolate cake, according to unreleased findings FDA researchers presented at a scientific conference in Europe. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)

The FDA presentation also disclosed PFAS findings — one spiking over 1,000 parts per trillion — in leafy green vegetables grown within 10 miles (16 kilometers) of an unspecified eastern U.S. PFAS plant and sold at a farmer's market.

And it previewed test levels for a previously reported instance of PFAS contamination of the food supply in the feed and milk at a dairy near an Air Force base in New Mexico. The FDA called the milk contamination a health concern.

FDA researchers discussed the results at a conference by the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry last week in Finland. The Environmental Defense Fund and the Environmental Working Group obtained the FDA presentation and provided it to The Associated Press.

"What this calls for is additional research to determine how widespread this contamination is and how high the levels are," said Linda Birnbaum, director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, in an interview. "We have to look at total human exposure — not just what's in the water or what's in the food ... or not just dust. We need to look at the sum totals of what the exposures are."

"Drinking one glass of contaminated water is unlikely to be associated with health risks, as is eating one slice of contaminated chocolate cake," said Jamie DeWitt, a toxicologist at East Carolina University who studies PFAS. "Individually, each item is unlikely to be a huge problem, but collectively and over a lifetime, that may be a different story." (Courtesy apnews.com)

Advertisement for 雲天燒腊麵食家 (Yun Tian BBQ Noodle House). Features a menu with items like 京都肉排, 葱油鯧魚, 北菇雞, etc. Includes contact info: (713) 988-5745 and address: 9380 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, TX 77036.

Advertisement for 中美酒樓 (Chinese American Restaurant). Features a menu with items like 四人份, 八人份, 十人份, etc. Includes contact info: 281-498-1280 and address: 11317 Bissonnet, Houston, TX 77099.

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