



Chris Britton and Jeff Colombini listen to Congressman Goodlatte on the latest developments for immigration reform.

CAC ATTENDS U.S. APPLE ASSOCIATION DC MEETING

On January 15, 2014, the U.S. Apple Association held its January Legislative Affairs meeting to discuss issues that are directly impacting the U.S. apple industry. Several of the issues discussed included: The Farm Bill, the Artic Apple, labor shortages and immigration reform, China, and trade.

During the meeting, Congressman Goodlatte, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee that will oversee the immigration reform bill, discussed the issue with the U.S. Apple Association attendees. Several representatives from the different states asked the Chairman about the possibility of achieving reform this year. Although optimistic about the possibility of passing a package this year, there are still differences between the Senate version and the House approach.

Additionally, during the trip the California Apple Commission staff met with several members of congress to discuss trade issues that directly impact California apple growers. Specifically, the issues included Mexico, Market Access Program (MAP) Technical Assistance for Specialty Crop (TASC) funding, and pest and disease issues.

The U.S. Apple Association will be holding its annual legislative day in March. Each year, the Commission, coupled with the U.S. Apple Association and several other state commissions work together to discuss issues directly impacting the respective states on the marketing and distribution of apples. For additional information, please contact the Commission office.

COMMISSION CONTINUES TO SEEK REDUCED MEXICO OVERSIGHT

The Commission continues to seek relief from the high costs and continued day to day oversight by a Mexico inspector in California during the apple harvest. Under current regulations, a Mexico inspector must be present during the season when apples are fumigated or cold treated for shipment to Mexico. Currently, USDA, CDFA, county inspectors, and the handler inspector, in addition to the Mexico inspector, review and witness the treatment of apples being shipped to Mexico.

In an effort to reduce costs on the industry and to streamline the process, the Commission has requested a harmonization inspection process through the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO). The intent is not to eliminate the inspections completely, but to allow the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to conduct the inspections. The streamlined process would also expand the market access for California apple producers by providing an open ended market date compared to a "drop dead" date due to the limited MAP dollars that currently pay for the program. Currently, thanks to the Commission's participation in the U.S. Apple Export Council, the Commission receives MAP dollars to reduce the costs of the program.

GOVERNOR DECLARES DROUGHT

On January 17, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency for the Golden State. Currently, state officials are showing the water content is about 20 percent, or less in some areas, of normal setting California up for record dry conditions and major water shortages. The Executive Order directs state officials to assist farmers and California communities. The Executive Order also directs state offices to use less water and to prepare for a higher fire season due to the drought conditions. For a copy of the Executive Order please click: <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18368>

USDA LAUNCHES EFFORT TO ASSIST CA PRODUCERS AFFECTED BY DROUGHT

"\$20 million available for agricultural conservation enhancements on key agricultural lands"

Landowners and managers interested in available funds have until March 3, 2014 to apply. Vilsack ensures that he is doing everything within his power to support the farmers and ranchers that have been affected by the drought. Vilsack says

“these funds will help get a suite of scientifically proven conservation techniques on the ground and helping producers.”

The USDA is providing additional funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help agricultural operators irrigate more efficiently, protect grazing lands, stabilize fallowed cropland, and overall use water more efficiently to protect their future livelihoods.

The funds are going to be divided between cropland and grazing lands with cropland receiving the highest priority due to at least 85 percent of reduced water allocation.

For more information on California’s drought please visit www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov.

CALIFORNIA APPLE COMMISSION CONTINUATION HEARING

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has set the Public Hearing for the Continuation of the California Apple Commission for Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 10:00am. The hearing will be held at 2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Ste. 200 in Stockton, CA. All affected California apple producers and other interested persons are invited to participate in this hearing.

WASHINGTON CROP REPORT

*As of January 22, 2014 current Washington shipments and holdings are:

	<u>2013/2014</u>	<u>2012/2013</u>
Weekly Total	2,760	2,937
Season Total	51,684	57,370

**Information provided by Washington Growers Clearing House*

Did you know you can receive an e-newsletter instead of the snail mail version? If you would like to sign up, please don’t hesitate to let me know at scordova@calapple.org.

California Apple Commission
770 E. Shaw, Suite 310
Fresno, CA 93710
(559) 225-3000 (ph)
(559) 225-3111 (fax)
calapple@calapple.org

RECIPE OF THE MONTH...

Autumn Apple Cakes

1 cup sifted flour	1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 cup sugar
½ teaspoon cinnamon	1 egg, beaten
½ teaspoon nutmeg	3 cups apples, peeled and diced
½ teaspoon salt	½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans
3 tablespoons butter	

Sift flour, baking powder, spices, and salt together. Set aside. Cream butter and sugar, add egg and mix together. Add flower mix to creamed mixture. Stir in diced apples, vanilla and nuts. Pour into greased 8X8-inch pan. Bake 50 minutes.

Courtesy of Joanne Neft and Laura Kenny ~ Do you have a favorite apple recipe you’d like to share? Email me at scordova@calapple.org.

🌸 CALENDAR OF EVENTS 🌸

- **COMMISSION CONTINUATION HEARING**
Date: February 20, 2014
Location: 2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Ste. 200, Stockton
- **US APPLE EXPORT COUNCIL MEETING**
Date: March 19, 2014
Location: Washington DC, USA
- **US APPLE ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE DAY**
Date: March 20-21, 2014
Location: Washington DC, USA
- **US APPLE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING**
Date: March 22, 2014
Location: Washington DC, USA