

## FRUIT LOGISTICA – BERLIN

On February 2-5, 2015, the California Apple Commission participated in Fruit Logistica, Berlin through the U.S. Apple Export Council. Fruit Logistica is the largest fresh fruit trade show in the world. This trade show provides the Council the unique opportunity to reach a vast audience of retailers and importers from around the world. If you would like more information or plan on attending next year, please contact the Commission office.



## MEXICO INSPECTOR REDUCTION

In January, negotiations between Mexico-SAGARPA and USDA-APHIS reached a tentative agreement on the reduction of the Mexico/California Apple Oversight Program. In this agreement, Mexico would introduce a new pilot program where the inspectors would perform audits on a monthly basis for the first year. In year two of the pilot program, the inspector's duration in California would be reduced by 50% if no pest detections occurred. In the third and final year of the pilot program, the inspector would make only two auditing trips. This pilot program is a significant step forward. If the agreement is finalized, this pilot program would go into effect this season. The Commission would like to thank USDA-APHIS for all of their dedication and hard work on this. If you have any questions or would like an update, please contact the Commission office.

## MEXICO FILES ANTIDUMPING LAWSUIT

In December 2014, the Mexican government filed a dumping lawsuit on behalf of the Chihuahua growers. This lawsuit named all U.S. companies that exported apples to Mexico during the 2013 season. Unfortunately, this includes California and its shippers. Although California exports a limited volume to Mexico and all data suggests California was not dumping, California exporters must defend themselves in court to avoid a substantial tariff. Being that dumping lawsuits are extremely complex and tedious, the Commission has solicited the help of Wasserman & Associates out of Washington D.C. If there are any questions or comments, please contact the Commission office.

## CHINA-US TRADE BILATERAL

In late January, USDA announced the signing of an agreement between the United States and China to establish market access for all varieties of apples grown in all U.S. states. Historically, only Red and Golden Delicious varieties from the Pacific Northwest were eligible for export to China. This new agreement allows for all apple varieties from all states to be eligible as long as they comply with the

new work plan and treatment protocols. The agreement will become effective once China publishes its official announcement which is expected within the next 60 days. Please contact the Commission office for more information.

## CAC VISITS CAPITAL HILL

With several issues at the forefront of the California apple industry, including the devastating drought, the China bilateral trade negotiations, the Mexico anti-dumping suit, and the food safety outbreak, the Commission travelled to Washington D.C. to update several regulatory and congressional officials on the issues that are directly impacting California apple producers. The Commission visited with local Central Valley congressional officials, including Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Congressman Devin Nunes, Congressman Jim Costa, Congressman Jeff Denham, and Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein. The Commission will update local congressional leaders as these issues continue to directly impact the production of the California apple industry.

## LISTERIA OUTBREAK

The U.S. apple industry continues to gather information on the listeria outbreak; to date, four people have died due to the outbreak. All apples associated with the company have been recalled and taken out of the market place; however, the U.S. apple market is experiencing a negative impact on several of its export markets. Even though the apples came from only one company, several South East Asian countries have banned U.S. apples in general. Currently, the Commission has been meeting with several industry members nationwide and several government officials, in an effort to obtain dollars, to assist the industry in reviewing current apple practices. In the meantime, growers and packers should review their current risk assessments and food safety practices. In March, the Commission will be meeting with both fresh and processed members at the U.S. Apple listeria update meeting in Chicago to get additional information on how to address food safety practices as a whole. The Commission will update the industry after the meeting.

## USDA DEREGULATES NON-BROWNING APPLES

In mid-February, USDA APHIS stated they will deregulate two genetically engineered apple varieties that were produced to resist browning. After many rigorous scientific tests, the Arctic Granny and Arctic Golden, from Okanagan Specialty Fruits Inc., have been evaluated to pose no likely plant pest risk to other agricultural plants. Therefore under law, APHIS must deregulate the genetically modified plant. Some growers and industry members oppose the deregulation and the overall production of genetically engineered apple varieties. An [article](#) from the Packer highlights opposing viewpoints on the marketing and development of GMO apples.

<http://content.govdelivery.com>

## LABOR DISPUTE AT WEST COAST PORTS HALT CALIFORNIA FRESH PRODUCE TRADE

The Pacific Maritime Association announced on February 20 that the West Coast port labor dispute has finally come to an end, but not without negative economic and financial impacts. Twenty-nine West Coast ports, all loading and unloading fresh vegetables, fruit and tree nuts, were halted for a few days, according to a press release from Western Growers, over labor disputes which caused "agricultural exports [to fall] to less than 50% of normal". The Pacific region's fresh produce exports were valued at over \$5 billion in the last quarter of 2014, and an estimated \$1.75 billion was lost in each of the months of December and January. Thankfully, the West Coast ports are now fully operational after a five-year contract was agreed upon between management and dockworkers. For more information please contact the Commission office.

<http://www.wga.com/> / <http://www.thepacker.com/>

## U.C. DAVIS ESTIMATES \$1.5 BILLION IN STATE DROUGHT COSTS

A new study conducted by the U.C. Davis College for Watershed Sciences has estimated a total of \$1.5 billion will be spent in drought expenditures throughout California. The current drought has prompted unfavorable decreases in production yields, some as much as 50%. Thousands of acres have already been removed, totaling almost 5% of the state's total agricultural land. In Fresno County alone, the agricultural commissioner's office has stated that planted acreage for barley is down 74%, garlic, 34%, and processed tomatoes, 22%. But farmland is not the only thing being uprooted. A combination of reduced production outputs and smaller sized crops have resulted in less time needed to clean and pack a smaller amount of produce, which means work weeks, hours, and availability of labor are all on the decline. Local family farms and ranches that have been in business for decades are also removing crops and cutting jobs. Skilled workers with years of experience and knowledge are now forced to find available work elsewhere. Federal water allocation is only the beginning, as the ripple effect of the drought affects everyone from farmers to labor crews, and packing houses to truck drivers. For more information, visit [www.fresnobee.com](http://www.fresnobee.com), or please contact the Commission office.

## WASHINGTON CROP REPORT

As of August 27, 2014 current Washington shipments and holdings are:\*

	<u>2013/2014</u>	<u>2012/2013</u>
Weekly Total	1,309	1,372
Season Total	111,520	122,523

*\*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, email me at [ktrockey@calapple.org](mailto:ktrockey@calapple.org)*

### OUR FAVORITE RECIPES...

#### Iced Apple Tea

3 cups apple juice or cider	1/3 cups of honey
3 cups boiling water	1 teaspoon allspice
6 tea bags	California apple slices, cut in circles

Add tea bags to boiling water. Let stand 15 minutes. Remove and add allspice, honey and apple juice. Simmer over low heat until honey is blended, about one minute. Chill. Serve over ice with lemon slices. *Recipe courtesy of U.S. Apple Association <http://www.usapple.org>*

### 🌿 CALENDAR OF EVENTS 🌿

- **U.S. Apple Listeria Industry Update Meeting**  
Date: March 4, 2015  
Location: Chicago, Illinois
- **Mexico Trade Show (ANTAD)**  
Date: March 12-14, 2015  
Location: Guadalajara, Mexico
- **U.S. Apple Industry Meeting**  
Date: March 17-20, 2015  
Location: Washington, D.C.
- **APHIS-USDA Irradiation Meeting**  
Date: March 25-26, 2015  
Location: Anaheim, California
- **CPMA Convention and Trade Show**  
Date: April 14-17, 2015  
Location: Montreal, Canada



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