



# NEWSLETTER

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## LISTERIA LINKED TO PREPACKAGED CARAMEL APPLES

On December 19, 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that it is collaborating with several states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in an investigation of the outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* infection (listeriosis) in commercially produced, prepackaged caramel apples. As of December 18, 2014 a total of 28 people have been reported with the outbreak strains in ten states, including one report in California. 26 of the 28 have been hospitalized, including five deaths. It should be noted, and the C.D.C. states "at this time, no illnesses related to this outbreak have been linked to apples that are not caramel-coated and not prepackaged or to caramel candy." The investigation is still working to determine specific brands or types of commercially produced, prepackaged caramel apples that may be linked to the illnesses. The Commission is working with other apple producing states and the U.S. Apple Association on this issue. Should you receive any calls regarding this issue or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office. Additional information may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/listeria>.

## MARKET ACCESS BEGINS TO OPEN IN CHINA

On October 31, 2014, Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that China had lifted the ban on Washington State apples. China's AQSIQ department initially banned all imports in 2012 because of continual signs of three significant apple diseases: speck rot, bull's eye-rot, and *Sphaeropsis* rot. The USDA and APHIS have been working closely with growers to find new ways that can help efficiently manage and prevent these diseases such as pre-shipping visual inspection and cold storage. Stated in a USDA press release, further access to the Chinese market is in progress as "we continue cultivating a strong relationship with China and paving the way for future bilateral trading opportunities."

Washington State is now able to export Red and Golden Delicious apples to China. The USDA and APHIS have been working with China's Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine Department (AQSIQ) to reopen the Chinese market for U.S. apples and pears. Two representatives from AQSIQ were sent to inspect and evaluate apples in Washington State. Three major diseases were of great importance to AQSIQ, but after noticing that the U.S. has taken much precaution in quarantine, AQSIQ has agreed to allow imports of Red and Golden Delicious apples from Washington State. APHIS and USDA are currently working to expand market access for all varieties. Bilaterals between the U.S. and China are set for next month in San Francisco. For more information on China's market access, contact the Commission office or visit <http://content.govdelivery.com>.

## HOUSE PASSES CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT

In early December, the House of Representatives passed the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014. House Representative, David Valadao sponsored the bill with the intent of providing "short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California." The bill explains that the State Water Project, operated by the California Department of Water Resources, will have the authority to access the maximum amount of water possible and distribute supplies to the agricultural, municipal, and industrial sectors. Per direction of the Secretary, the Central Valley Project will also have and retain any senior water rights. Members of the California legislature have urged Senators Feinstein and Boxer to vote for the bill and support its enactment in order to address the state's long term water issues. The bill is now waiting for consideration by the Senate. For more information, contact the Commission office. [www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us) [www.govtrack.us/congress](http://www.govtrack.us/congress)

## STATE WATER BOARD ESTIMATES DECLINING WATER USE

Our current drought situation is far from over. California's monthly water conservation year to year rates have dropped from 10.3% in September to 6.7% in October. Officials say this may be due to less average water usage in colder months. Recent rain showers and melting snow pack are necessary, and as of late, the estimated total amount is not enough to help prevent a fourth year drought in 2015. The California State Water Board has established a new reporting system which analyzes per capita daily water consumption. Estimated per capita water use for September and October were 123 gallons per person and 109 gallons per person, respectively. Between the months of June and October, an estimated 90 billion gallons of water have been conserved. At a rate of one acre foot of water per two families, that amount can "supply 1.2 million Californians for an entire year". State water conservation year to year rates have been on the decline but conservation efforts are still vital to California. For more information, [visit http://ca.gov/drought](http://ca.gov/drought).

## MEXICO MARKET UPDATE

On November 4, 2014, the California Mexico Apple Export Program officially ended. Overall, the season progressed with little to no setbacks. Trade discussions between the U.S. and Mexico are still ongoing but the Commission is optimistic that oversight costs will be lowered by fifty percent next season. The Commission's goal is to significantly reduce or eliminate the oversight program by 2015-2016. The Commission would like to thank the USDA, FAS, CDFA and the U.S. Apple Export Council for their assistance and continued support of this program. If you have any questions regarding the Mexico program, please contact the Commission office.

## CDFA SPECIALTY CROP GRANT

Last year, the California Apple Commission applied for several grants from the California Department of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. In October of 2014, CDFA awarded the Commission with a grant to research Shade Cloth effects on apples. The grant primarily focuses on the economic viability of Shade Cloth in CA and how much of an impact it has on apple coloring/sizing and protection. If you would like a copy of the grant project or have any other questions, please contact Todd Sanders at 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...

### Apple-Cranberry Stuffed Pork Chops with Sautéed California Apples

2 medium-sized tart California apples	4 tablespoons apple juice, divided
1 cup finely chopped fresh spinach or 1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry	4 boneless pork loin chops, 1-inch thick (about 5 ounces each)
1/3 cup dried cranberries, chopped	1/2 teaspoon salt
	1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
	2 tablespoons olive oil
	2 tablespoons butter

Peel and chop one California apple; leaving peel on second apple, thinly slice. To prepare stuffing: In small bowl, mix chopped California apple, spinach, cranberries and 1 tablespoon of the apple juice; toss to combine. With very sharp knife, cut crosswise into each chop to form a pocket, taking care not to cut through. Stuff each chop with about 1/4 cup of the stuffing. Season chops with salt and pepper. In very large skillet, heat olive oil over medium high heat. Add pork chops; cook until well browned, about 7 minutes per side. Remove to platter; cover to keep warm. In skillet, heat butter over medium-high heat. Add sliced California apples and remaining 3 tablespoons apple juice; cook until apples begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Serve with chops.

*Courtesy of U.S. Apple Association <http://www.usapple.org> ~*

*Do you have a favorite apple recipe you'd like to share? Email me at [ktrockey@calapple.org](mailto:ktrockey@calapple.org).*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Date: February 2014  
Location: Conference Call
- **FRUIT LOGISTICA**  
Date: February 2-6, 2015  
Location: Berlin, Germany

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