



NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 125

November/December 2017

U.S. FARM EXPORTS HIT 3rd HIGHEST LEVEL ON RECORD

On November 16, 2017, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, announced that U.S. exports totaled \$140.5 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2017, increasing more than \$10 billion from the previous year. This marks the third-highest export level on record. Secretary Perdue stated in a press release, "U.S. agriculture depends on trade. It is great to see an increase in exports and we hope to open additional markets to build on this success." Last year, the United States was the largest export customer for China, with shipments valued at \$22 billion, followed by Canada at \$20.4 billion, exports to Mexico \$18.6 billion, and Japan \$11.8 billion. California apple's number one export market is Canada followed by Mexico and SE Asia. Exports continue to be our important components for the California apple industry. Additionally, the CAC participates in the US Apple Export Council (USAEC) which aids in educating consumers about foreign markets. The California apple industry received over \$200,000 in assistance through the US Apple Export Council's activities. For more information on the agricultural export data, please visit Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/>.

HOUSE TAX BILL COULD CUT FARM BILL PROGRAMS

On November 15, 2017, the House of Representatives passed the tax bill that could possibly eliminate several farm bill programs and services critical to farmers, ranchers and rural communities. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) issued a letter to the House Minority and Ways and Means Committee, stating that the tax bill would add \$1.5 trillion to the deficit over the next ten years. The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) Act, would automatically force budget cuts to take effect, resulting in the complete elimination of many important existing programs, including many utilized by the apple industry. These

automatic cuts could be applied to the Specialty Crop Research Initiative, Specialty Crop Block Grants and the Market Access Program (MAP). The California Apple Commission receives grant dollars from several of these programs. These programs include Shade Cloth, Research and MAP dollars for Canada and Mexico. The US Apple Association (USAA) will continue to assist apple producing states in an effort to save these programs for additional information please contact the USAA or the Commission office.

COMMISSION ATTENDS PMA

On October 18-20, 2017, the California Apple Commission attended the Produce Marketing Association's (PMA) annual convention and exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana. PMA allows the Commission to meet and maintain relationships with other industry leaders as it connects with the industry on being updated on current industry topics and workshops. The Commission also participated in a breakfast that was hosted by the US Apple Export Council (USAEC). The breakfast brought together major foreign buyers, consumers and government officials interested in importing apples from California and the US. If you would like more information regarding PMA or the USAEC breakfast gathering, please contact the commission office. Next year's PMA will be held in Florida.

MICHIGAN LISTERIA OUTBREAK

On December 19, 2017, the California Apple Commission received word that a packer in Michigan had a positive test for listeria in their facility. As a result of the find, the packing house did a voluntary recall and responded quickly in notifying retailers. To date, no consumers have reported illness.

The Commission has been working with U.S. Apple Association, Michigan and other apple producing states in monitoring the news media and addressing any concerns arising from this issue. To date, according to U.S. Apple Association, the story has not picked up national attention.

Lastly, the Commission has not received information on where the listeria was found in the facility. The Commission will continue to update the California members as information becomes available.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office.

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The California Apple Commission Wishes You A Joyous Happy Holiday and a Bright New Year!

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 22 & 25, 2017 & JANUARY 1, 2017 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLIDAYS.



California Apple Commission
2565 Alluvial Ave, Ste. 182
Clovis, CA 93611
PH: (559) 225-3000
FAX: (559) 456-9099

calapple@calapple.org
www.calapple.org

APPLE BITES

California Sugarless Apple Pie

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 California Fuji apples (about 2 lbs.)
- 1 or 2 California Granny Smith apples
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- ¾ cup apple juice concentrate, thawed
- 3 tablespoons butter
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon, ground mace & allspice
- ½ teaspoon vanilla and unbaked pastry for two-crust 9" pie



DIRECTIONS:

1. Peel, core and slice apples; set aside. Dissolve cornstarch in 2 tablespoons cold apple juice concentrate; set aside.
2. Combine remaining concentrate and butter in 10 inch skillet. Heat to boiling.
3. Stir in apple slices. Cover and steam 3 to 5 minutes until apples are heated through.
4. Stir in cornstarch mixture. Cook, stirring gently, until thickened and clear.
5. Add seasonings and vanilla; stir well. Set aside.
6. Line ungreased glass pie pan with pastry. Spoon in filling and spread evenly. Top with second crust. Seal and flute edges. Cut slits in top crust.
7. Bake at 425°F for 15 minutes; reduce heat to 350°F and bake 20-30 minutes more or until crust is golden brown.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Fruit Logistica**
 - Date: February 7-9, 2018
 - Berlin, Germany
- **US Apple Capitol Hill Day**
 - Date: March 15, 2018
 - The Washington Court Hotel, Washington, DC
- **January CAC Board Meeting**
 - Date: TBD
 - Fresno Office