

GMO BILL PASSED THROUGH SENATE

On July 8th, 2016 the U.S. Senate passed S.764. This bipartisan GMO labeling bill was introduced by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman, Pat Roberts, and Ranking Minority Member, Debbie Stabenow. This compromise legislation was designed to counteract the law that took effect in Vermont on July 1st. Also, this bill will prevent confusion and cost for the industry and consumers alike due to a plethora of state regulations that would have gone with the law passed last year. USApple is applauding the passage of this legislation and is hoping the House of Representatives will follow. The Senate Bill 764 calls for mandatory disclosure of present GMO's which may be done by text, symbol, or a link to a website. The important distinction between this legislation and the bill that passed last year is, last year's bill allowed for "non GMO" labeling but had no requirement for labeling the presence of GMOs. When the legislation was announced in late June, USApple joined hundreds of food and agriculture organizations in a letter urging immediate action. To read more about this article please visit usapple.org.



Executive Director, Alex Ott at the Taiwan training seminar.

TAIWAN TRAINING SEMINAR

On July 10th, 2016, the California Apple Commission hosted the Taiwan training seminar. The seminar is organized in conjunction with USDA-APHIS. The purpose of the seminar was to train the necessary

personnel from different packing sheds in the process of detecting Codling Moth as outlined by the Taiwan work plan. If you would like to participate in a future seminar, please contact the commission office.

ARCTIC APPLES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing a preliminary hearing to extend deregulation to a line of genetically engineered (GE) Apples known as Arctic® Fuji. This GE apple, developed by Okanagan Specialty Fruits, Inc. (OSF), is engineered for enzymatic browning resistance. APHIS previously reviewed and deregulated this GE trait in other apples. APHIS has prepared a preliminary hearing with an accompanying plant pest risk similarity assessment (PPRSA) and a preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). To read more about this article please visit aphis.usda.gov.

U.S. APPLE HARVEST FALLS BY 12%

Apple harvest for the U.S. fell 12% from last season. Approximately 238 million bushels of apples were grown in the U.S. during the 2015 season. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Services' estimate for July was 1% lower than the 5 year average and 2% lower than the pre-season estimate, according to an analysis of data done by the USApple Association. The approximation of 238 million bushels was higher than the 235 million that were forecasted at the U.S. Apple's 2015 annual conference. To read more about this article please visit thepacker.com.

USAPPLE EFFORTS SAVE APPLE RESEARCH LABORATORY

USApple's efforts to save the Apple Postharvest Research Laboratory in Beltsville were successful and the USDA has reversed its decision to close the lab. The research program is the only USDA apple postharvest research in the United States. The research program had operated for more than 100 years, but was under scrutiny by the USDA for elimination in the FY2017 budget. While defending the possibly closing lab,

USApple told USDA officials that apples are the third most valuable fruit crop in the U.S., with an annual value of roughly \$4 billion. Also mentioning the fact that apples are the most valuable fruit export, with annual exports valued at over \$1 billion in revenue and are an important contributor to the U.S. balance of trade. In a message to the President of USApple, the Principal Researcher on the project, Jim Bair, Dr. Wayne Jurick, expressed his gratitude for USApple's support of the program. To read more about this article please visit usapple.org

CA APPLE MEXICO INSPECTOR

In early August, the Mexico inspector arrived in California to start the California/Mexico apple export program. Juan Jose Lopez was this year's inspector. In accordance with the California/Mexico work plan, the Mexico inspector must certify all packing sheds and fumigation chambers intending on exporting apples to Mexico. If you have any questions regarding the Mexico Export Program, please contact Todd Sanders at the Commission office.

U.S. APPLE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Staff from the California Apple Commission attended the recent U.S. Apple Association Conference. The conference was held Thursday August 25th through Friday August 26th 2016, In Chicago.

CAC ANNUAL REPORT

In the near future please be on the lookout for the California Apple Commission Annual Report. The Annual Report includes information on the current and future research, education projects, market reports, and

other pertinent industry information. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the Commission office.

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APPLE BITES APPLE CHIPS

Ingredients:

- 3 California apples (I use Granny Smith or Pink Lady)
- ground cinnamon
- granulated sugar

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 200F degrees. Line two large baking sheets. Set aside.
- Wash and thinly slice the apples. Spread the apple slices onto the baking pans making 1 single layer. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar.
- Bake 1 hour, flip apples over, bake for another 1-1.5 hours. Turn oven off. Keep the apples inside as the oven cools down for 1 hour. This will help them get crunchy. Some apples may just be chewy and only slightly crunchy after 3 hours in the oven. Store apple chips at room temp in an airtight container for up to 1 week.

Recipe courtesy of SALLYSBAKINGADDICTION.COM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Asia Fruit Logistica**
 - Date: September 7-9, 2016
 - Location: Hong Kong, China



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