

COMMISSION VISITS WASHINGTON D.C.



Alex Ott of the CAC and Jeff Colombini of Lodi Farming meet with Congressman Jeff Denham in Washington, D.C.

During the week of March 2-5 2016, the California Apple Commission met with Congressional leadership and other agencies in Washington, D.C. The meetings were designed to inform and educate the different partners and leaders regarding the significant issues that California agriculture, specifically the apple industry, faces in the very near future. Some of the difficulties include water, labor, TPP, FAS funding, and invasive pest concerns. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office.

CAC MEETS WITH USAEC

On March 2, 2016, the California Apple Commission met with the US Apple Export Council to discuss current market access and USAEC funding. The USAEC is expected to receive roughly 1 million dollars in funding which will be utilized in 7-10 markets. The USAEC assists the Commission and other U.S. Apple producing states in obtaining Market Access Program (MAP) and Technical Assistance for Specialty Crop (TASC) dollars for foreign markets. California priority markets including: Canada, Mexico, and Southeast Asia, receive MAP dollars for inspectors and in-country representatives. Currently, USAEC markets include: Canada, Central America, India, Mexico, Southeast Asia, and United Kingdom. Voting membership is based on states that pay dues into the organization. However, Associate memberships are available and provide needed additional industry support to the organization in an effort to further export markets. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office.

COMMISSION AT CANADIAN PMA

On April 12-14, 2016, the California Apple Commission attended the Canadian Produce Marketing Association's convention. The convention presents the Commission with the ideal opportunity to build upon existing relationships with other industry leaders. Canada is California's top international market with close to 60% of California's exported apples going there. Attending CPMA was a joint venture between the California Blueberry Commission, California Apple Commission, the US Apple Export Council, and the California Pear Advisory Board. This joint venture significantly reduced cost and allowed for a more diverse cliental exposure. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office.

IRRADIATION WORKSHOP

In March, staff attended the "Opportunities in Phytosanitary Irradiation for Fresh Produce Workshop 2016." Speakers included officials from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), researchers, collaborators, and industry professionals. Topics covered included: irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment, its effects on fruit quality, treatment options, consumer concerns, and export opportunities using irradiation. Irradiation can prevent foodborne illnesses, increase preservation, control insects, extend self-life, and provide sterilization. Currently, there are three approved sources of irradiation treatments for use on food: gamma rays, x-rays, and electron beam. Irradiated food has been approved by the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USDA, and the FDA. For more information, please contact the Commission office.

STATE WATER PROJECT ALLOCATION INCREASED TO 60%

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced in December 2015 that a mere 10 percent of water allocation requests would be granted. After several storms served to replenish reservoir levels even further, the DWR gradually increased this figure until reaching 45 percent on March 17. Now, on the 21 of April, the allocation was raised yet again to grant 60 percent of requests for the calendar year. This raise can be attributed to the March storms that graciously soaked Northern California. Unfortunately, however, the drought is far from over. Although the storms have graciously filled most key northern reservoirs including Shasta, Oroville, Folsom they have completely skipped the southern and San Joaquin Valley reservoirs which still remain at an all-time low. No one can accurately predict the amount of

precipitation California will face in the upcoming year, so conservation is the surest way to remain prepared. For more information, please visit: www.swc.org.

FARM GROUPS JOIN FORCES IN OPPOSITION OF UFW SAFE HARBOR EXCLUSION CLAUSE IN PIECE RATE BILL

In late March, Western Growers and the California Fresh Fruit Association will file a friend-of-the-court brief supporting a lawsuit challenging provisions of a new law that provides a safe harbor from class action lawsuits to employers who make back payment to piece-rate employees. The provisions in question, demanded by the United Farm Workers union (UFW), specifically exclude from AB 1513's "safe harbor" at least two farm companies targeted by the United Farm Workers (UFW) union on unrelated matters. The provisions were specifically added to the legislation as the price of UFW's acquiescence to the legislation (AB 1513). CFFA President Barry Bedwell commented on the filing, "While there rightfully remains indignation in regard to the way the carve out sections were negotiated, everyone should know that this legal action is specifically directed to only these unfair and unjust provisions that specifically target two employers and the ludicrous accusation of somehow being 'bad actors.'" For more information regarding this brief, please visit:

www.CAFreshFruit.com or <https://www.wga.com/>

CAC WELCOMES NEW INTERN

In April 2016, the CAC welcomed aboard new intern, Tabitha Francis. Tabitha is a sophomore at California State University, Fresno where she is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Communications with an emphasis in event planning and marketing. Tabitha was born in Merced, California and now resides in Atwater, California. Some of her hobbies include camping, fishing, traveling, and crafting while spending time with her family and friends. Tabitha has a passion for elephants and enjoys planting pumpkins in preparation for her favorite season of

fall. She is excited for this opportunity to work with the Commission and looks forward to the valuable knowledge she will gain through this internship experience.

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APPLE BITES

Bacon-Infused Apple Bourbon Cocktail

Ingredients: 2 fl. oz. bacon-fat-infused bourbon (instructions below)
1 fl. oz. cinnamon simple syrup (instructions below)
3 fl. oz. apple cider
1 slice fresh sweet-tart apple -

Directions:

Mix bourbon, apple cider and simple syrup together in cocktail shaker with ice. Pour into cocktail glass and garnish with cinnamon stick and a sweet-tart apple slice.

Combine 1 cup of bacon grease with 750 ml of bourbon in a food-safe container. Cover tightly and refrigerate for three days.

After three days, remove lid and scoop the hardened bacon fat off of the top of the bourbon and discard.

Strain bourbon through a coffee filter, cheese cloth, or tea strainer.

Simple syrup instructions:

Combine 1 cup of water with 1 cup of granulated sugar, and 1 stick of cinnamon.

Heat, stirring frequently, until sugar is completely dissolved.

Recipe courtesy of U.S. Apple Association Blog: <http://www.usapple.org>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **U.S. Apple Export Council Meeting**
-Date: August 24, 2016
-Location: Chicago, IL
- **U.S. Apple Association Apple Crop Outlook and Marketing Conference**
-Date: August 25-26, 2016
-Location: Chicago, IL



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