



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas, and
Happy New Year from the CAC!*

Newsletter

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CALIFORNIA APPLE COMMISSION CONTINUATION HEARING

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has set the Public Hearing for the Continuation of the California Apple Commission for Wednesday, January 16, 2019. The continuation referendum will be held at the Robert J Cabral Agriculture Center, 2101 E Earhart Ave., Stockton, CA, beginning at 10:00 AM in the Delta classroom. The State of California Department of Food and Agriculture is required under the Commission Law to conduct a hearing every five years to determine whether the operation of the Commission should be continued. All California apple producers and other interested persons are invited to participate in this hearing.

AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The California Apple Commission, and several other agricultural groups based in the San Joaquin Valley, have joined with West Hills College Lemoore, to launch a valley-wide ag leadership initiative to foster the next generation of leaders. The course will be launched on January 23, 2019. The program will be available to all community college students in the region. Students will produce reports on significant issues affecting agriculture and meet weekly with agricultural leaders in a classroom setting, and culminates with a trip to Sacramento where the students will interact with legislators, gubernatorial appointees and consultants. For more information on this opportunity, please contact the Commission.

E-DISCLOSURE FOR E-FILING FORM 700 REMINDER

As outlined by CDFA and the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) all Board of Directors filers must complete the necessary Form 700. Board members are now eligible to submit your Form 700 electronically through eDisclosure. To access eDisclosure system and complete your e-filing Form 700, please log on to <https://form700.fppc.ca.gov/>. Upon login you will see a list of positions that you are required to file a Form 700 for. Once completed, your Form will be saved in your online-filing cabinet under "Previous Filings" menu. **As a reminder, the Form 700 is due April 2, 2019.** Should you have any problems accessing or completing your eDisclosure Form 700 please contact your assigned FPPC filing officer, Christine Chen at (916) 324-7602 or via email at Form700@fppc.ca.gov. As always, the Commission can help you file your Form 700. Please contact the CAC office for assistance.

CAC ATTENDS U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Members from the California Apple Commission staff recently attended the U.S. Agricultural Export Development (USAEDC) Conference from November 14-15th in Baltimore, Maryland. This two day annual conference features many informational presentations regarding the current state of agricultural exports from the U.S. High-ranking members from the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and representatives from various Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) international posts were in attendance. A main focus of this year's conference was the current state of ongoing trade wars, tariffs, and a new funding program FAS has made available to offset some of these barriers. This program, commonly known as the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATPP), was designed to help U.S. agricultural exporters develop new markets despite the adverse effects of other countries' tariff and non-tariff barriers. A total of \$200 million in funding is available, and the CAC has taken advantage of this opportunity via the U.S. Apple Export Council. Funding decisions are expected to be announced sometime in January, and the Commission will provide updates as they become available.

H-2A PROGRAM ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATE UPDATE

The National Council of Agricultural Employers (NCAE), met to discuss the 2019 Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) for the H-2A program. The H-2A program allows U.S. employers or U.S. agents who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs. On December 26, 2018, the new AEWR were published. Accordingly, the 2019 Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) proposed for California, will be paid \$13.92 per hour, for agricultural work performed by H-2A program, and U.S. workers, effective January 9, 2019.

FARM BILL PASSES

The 2018 Farm Bill was passed by both the Senate and House of Representatives and signed by President Trump on December 20, 2018. It covers most federal government policies related to agriculture in the United States. The Farm Bill comes up for renewal every five years. Many individuals and organizations contribute to the Farm Bill, including members of government and special interest groups. The legislation included a variety of federal grant programs, funding for farmers market and local food programs.

CAC TO ATTEND FRUIT LOGISTICA IN BERLIN

On February 6-8, 2019, the California Apple Commission (CAC) will travel to Berlin, Germany for Fruit Logistica. This is the largest fresh fruit trade show in the world, it covers the fresh produce business and offers a complete picture of the latest innovations, products, and services in the international supply chain. The trade show provides the Commission the unique opportunity to reach a vast audience of retailers and importers both around the world. For more information, please contact the Commission office.

2018 MEXICO INSPECTOR PROGRAM CONCLUSION

In mid-July, the Mexico inspector arrived in California to start the California/Mexico apple export program. 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 Elizabeth Carranza at the Commission office.

ELECTION RESULTS:

CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP CHANGES

As anticipated, the 2018 mid-term election resulted in many significant transitions for the State of California and the U.S. as a whole. The greatest transition was seen in the House of Representatives shift in majority to the Democratic Party with a count of 199 Republicans to 235 Democrats. In California, the Republicans did not pick up any additional seats, but lost a total of 7. Two of these seats were Central Valley Representatives, David Valadao and Jeff Denham, with whom CAC staff have developed long-term relationships. However, despite these losses, the CAC will strive to develop the same level of interaction with new House members. With regard to California state election results, former Lieutenant Governor, Gavin Newsom, was elected Governor, Eleni Kounalakis was elected Lieutenant Governor, and former Congressman Xavier Becerra was elected Attorney General. Governor Newsom has not yet appointed a Secretary of Agriculture, however, the CAC will continue to update the industry with any new developments.



California Apple Commission

2565 Alluvial Ave, Ste. 152

Clovis, CA 93611

PH: (559) 225-3000

FAX: (559) 456-9099

calapple@calapple.org

www.calapple.org

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APPLE BITES

Apple & Sunflower Seed Salad

2 California Granny Smith apples-cored and cubed
½ cup sunflower seeds
1 head romaine lettuce – chopped
1 dill pickle diced
2 tomatoes diced
Ranch dressing of your choice

In a large bowl, mix together the apples, sunflower seeds, lettuce, pickles and tomatoes. Pour dressing on top, toss and enjoy. *Recipe courtesy of www.allrecipes.com*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Fruit Logistica**
 - Date: February 6-8, 2019
 - Location: Berlin, Germany
- **US Apple Association Government Affairs Meeting**
 - Date: February 13-14, 2018
 - Location: Washington, DC
- **US Apple Export Council Middle East Trade Mission**
 - Date: February 2018
 - Location: Dubai & Saudi Arabia
- **ANTAD Mexico**
 - Date: March 5-7, 2019
 - Location: Guadalajara, Mexico