



Newsletter

Issue No. 149

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COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL PAID SICK LEAVE LAW

On February 19, 2022 the new 2022 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave law went into effect. This law provides covered employees up to 80 hours of COVID-19 related paid leave, with up to 40 of those hours for isolation and quarantine, receiving vaccines, and caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed and up to an additional 40 of those hours available only when an employee, or family member for whom the employee provides care, tests positive for COVID-19.

UPDATED RESEARCH PAGE ON CAC WEBSITE

The California Apple Commission recently updated the Research tab on the California Apple Commission website. We have added a significant amount of research, some which dates back to the 1980s. This page is password protected and only available to California apple growers. If you are interested in viewing the page, please email Riley at intern@calapple.org to receive the password.

DROUGHT UPDATE

Following the driest first three months of a year in the state's recorded history, Governor Newsom released an executive order on March 28, 2022 that calls on local water suppliers to activate drought contingency plans. This order also calls the Water Board to consider a ban on watering decorative grass around commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. To further conserve water and strengthen drought resiliency in this critically dry year, the Governor is encouraging suppliers, where appropriate, to consider going above and beyond the Level 2 of their water shortage contingency plans, activating more ambitious measures. To view the executive order, [click here](#).

CAC BOARD ELECTIONS

Due to changes in the industry, which has caused a shift in the concentration of apple acreage in the original three (3) Districts, the California Apple Commission Board of Directors voted unanimously to restructure the Board to rectify this issue. The elimination of Districts will allow for a Statewide Board of Directors. A Statewide Board, will allow producers who are eligible and interested to serve to now participate on the Board regardless of their location. The California Apple Commission is announcing the following Statewide positions for the Board of Directors for the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year. In accordance to Commission bylaws, all apple producers must be notified of these positions. The California Apple Commission will host a Zoom/Conference call to nominate candidates for the 2022-2023 Board of Directors. Elections will take place on Thursday, APRIL 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The following is a list of the seats up for (re)election and whose positions expire on June 30, 2022. If you would like additional information regarding these positions, or the zoom information, please contact the Commission office.

STATEWIDE PRODUCERS	STATEWIDE HANDLERS
Chris Britton Virginia Hemly Chhabra	Bill Denevan Doug Hemly - Alternate Tim Sambado Vacant - Alternate

HEAT ILLNESS TRAINING

On April 29, 2022, the Department of Industrial Relations, Cal/OSHA Consultation & Agricultural Organizations will be having a scheduled Heat Illness Prevention and Wildfire Smoke Training Session. The no-cost training will be held at the C.P.D.E.S. Portuguese Hall in Fresno. The program is intended for Supervisory Positions and certificates will be given upon completion of the two-hour session. Please [click here](#) to view the flyer for more information.

CAC ATTENDS U.S. CAPITOL HILL DAY

In March, representatives of the California Apple Commission, including Chairman, Jeff Colombini, traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the US Apple Capitol Hill Day. During this annual event, CAC representatives met with numerous Members of Congress to discuss the US Apple industry's official position on important topics including: immigration, food safety, trade, transportation/logistics, labor, and pesticide policies, among others. Event host and organizer, US Apple, serves the interests of the nation's apple growers on a wide range of issues including agricultural labor, export promotion, specialty crop farm bill programs, and federal nutrition programs. For more information regarding US Apple or this meeting, please contact the Commission office.

SB-982 CALIFORNIA APPLE COMMISSION: ORGANIC APPLE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE

SB-982 has passed the Senate Agriculture Committee and is set to be heard on April 25, 2022. If passed, this bill would authorize the California Apple Commission to enforce an organic apple certification program that would prevent the use of prohibited substances in organic apple production. This bill protects the integrity of the California organic apple industry. The organic apple certification program would ensure the apples are in compliance with already existing state and federal laws. The CAC Board of Directors voted unanimously to pursue this effort in December of 2021. CAC staff will continue to keep the California apple industry up-to-date with any news relating to SB-982. Please feel free to contact the office at (559) 225-3000 with any questions



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COMMISSION ATTENDS FRUIT LOGISTICA TRADESHOW

The California Apple Commission participated in the annual Fruit Logistica Tradeshow, held in Berlin, Germany, from April 5-7, 2022. The Commission represented the California apple industry, and its members, at the U.S. Apple Export Council booth. Exhibitors from 86 countries and trade visitors attend Fruit Logistica every year. Fruit Logistica covers every sector of the fresh produce business and provides a complete picture of the latest innovations, products and services at every link in the international supply chain. For more information on this event, please do not hesitate to contact the CAC office.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **2022 MRL Harmonization Workshop, San Francisco**
 - May 25-26, 2022
- **OFFICE CLOSED - Memorial Day**
 - May 30, 2022
- **Annual June Board of Directors Meeting**
 - Date TBD

Some events are being held virtually. Please contact the CAC office for more information.

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