



# NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 104

May/June 2014

## ORGANICS BOARD ENDS THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS

On May 2, 2014 the National Organic Standards Board voted against the use of the antibiotic streptomycin as a preventative for fire blight in the apple and pear industries. The article published in *The Packer* explained that the US Apple Association wanted the vote to extend the use of the treatment until 2017 so that an alternative treatment could be researched and utilized. In addition, the CAC sent a representative to the NOSB to provide feedback but the decision fell two votes short. Since the antibiotic tetracycline was banned last year, growers are now left with no effective treatment against fire blight. According to the Consumer Reports Food Safety and Sustainability Center, nine out of ten consumers agree that organic produce should be antibiotic-free. Their executive director, Urvashi Rangan, stated that after October 21, 2014, "no antibiotics will be used on organic apples and pears".

<http://www.thepacker.com/fruit-vegetable-ewsletter/packer-daily/Organics-board-antibiotic-treatment-to-end-for-apples-and-pears-257716781.html>

## US APPLE EXPORT COUNCIL

In mid-August the California Apple Commission will attend the US Apple Export Council meeting in Chicago. This meeting is paired with the US Apple annual meeting and is designed to have the participating States meet and discuss the crop outlook and the status of the Council. If you have any questions or comments regarding the meeting, please contact the Commission office.

## CALIFORNIA APPLE COMMISSION RAISES ASSESSMENT BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014

On May 2, 2014, the Board of Directors unanimously approved an assessment increase that will begin July 1, 2014. The assessment will increase from \$0.006 mils per pound (24 cents per 40-lb. standard box) to \$0.06875 mils per pound (27 ½ cents per 40-lb. standard box). The rate increase is necessary because of rising operating and program expenses. A portion of the assessment (\$0.005 mils) will fund Fire Blight research. For questions, please contact the Commission office.

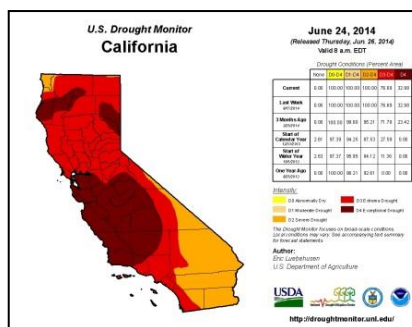
## TAIWAN TRAINING SEMINAR

At 9:00am on July 15, 2014, the California Apple Commission will be hosting the Taiwan training seminar. The seminar is organized in conjunction with USDA-APHIS. The purpose of the seminar is to train the necessary personnel from different packing sheds in the process of detecting Codling Moth as outlined by the Taiwan work plan. This year, the seminar will be held at:

**The U.C. Cooperative Extension**  
2101 E. Earhart Ave.  
Stockton, CA 95205  
(209) 953-6100

As of **August 1, 2014**, the new address for the California Apple Commission will be:  
**2565 Alluvial Avenue, Suite 182**  
**Clovis, California 93611**

## CALIFORNIA WATER CRISIS: HOW CAN YOU HELP?



The California Water Crisis has everyone on edge and many people are doing their part to help solve this problem. Government supported programs and nonprofit organizations, like The California Farm Water Coalition (CFWC), have been sprouting up in order to help find ways to

save our precious water supply. The CFWC has established the slogan, "Food Grows Where Water Flows" to help increase public awareness about the water crisis which, according to Ag Alert magazine, has become life-threatening to some farms. "Groundwater is the last line of defense, the safety net" states Chris Scheuring, a California Farm Bureau Federation attorney. Essentially, we are down to the last drop and it is going to take everyone to help save our farms and California from more drought seasons in the future. [Save Our Water.org](http://www.saveourwater.org) posts daily tips for water conservation and efficiency that can be used around the house, such as watering potted plants with ice cubes and using mulch to keep garden beds cooler. For more information on any facts presented, check out the links below.

<http://www.agalert.com/story/?id=6846>  
<http://saveourwater.com/> <http://new.farmwater.org/>  
[http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/data/jpg/20140624/20140624\\_ca\\_trd.jpg](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/data/jpg/20140624/20140624_ca_trd.jpg)

## CA APPLE MEXICO INSPECTOR

In early August, the Mexico inspector will arrive in California to start the California/Mexico apple export program. In ordinance 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 would like to be added to the list of acceptable packing sheds, please contact the Commission office. In addition, the Commission and the inspector request that at least 24 hours advanced notice are given before a scheduled fumigation. If you have any questions regarding the Mexico Export Program, please contact Todd Sanders at the Commission office.

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

### MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 1

Minimum wage is scheduled to increase to \$9.00 an hour in accordance with Assembly Bill 10 passed in 2013. With the national minimum wage set to \$7.25, California will be one of 18 other states to have a much higher minimum wage rate and potentially the highest of all with a second wage increase to \$10.00 proposed for January 1, 2016. Most agriculture employers already give their workers an above-minimum wage rate; therefore, the increase affects the entire work force "ladder". Wage rates go up for everyone which results in more associated costs for farmers and employers, such as worker's compensation and unemployment insurance, says Bryan Little, COO of the Farm Employer's Labor Service. If small farms can't afford to give their workers above-minimum wage rates, then will they be able to find workers at all? This is one question that may have a negative answer and a challenge that farmers will have to face in the coming months. For more information on the wage increase or this article, click the link. <http://www.agalert.com/story/?id=6898>

### WASHINGTON CROP REPORT

\*As of July 1, 2014 current Washington shipments and holdings are:

	<u>2013/2014</u>	<u>2012/2013</u>
Weekly Total	1,495	1,735
Season Total	100,357	112,177

*\*Information provided by Washington Growers Clearing House*

*Did you know you can receive an e-newsletter instead of the snail mail version? If you would like to sign up, email me at [ktrockey@calapple.org](mailto:ktrockey@calapple.org).*

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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH...

### Warm Apple Compote

2 cups apple cider	6 California Cripps apples,
2 tablespoons brown sugar	peeled, cored, and cut into 1-
1 teaspoon cinnamon	inch cubes
¼ cup butter	6 California Granny Smith
1 cup sugar	apples, peeled, cored, and cut
	into 1-inch cubes

Mix cider, brown sugar, and cinnamon in a saucepan. Bring to a boil, and then reduce heat. Let the mixture simmer until it has reduced by half. Meanwhile, melt butter in a large saucepan, and mix in apples. Stir together, and cook over medium heat for 10 minutes. Stir in sugar, and cook 10 to 15 minutes longer. When done, the apples should still be a little firm. Pour the cider mixture onto the apples. Serve warm with a dollop of whipped cream.

*Courtesy of Joanne Neft and Laura Kenny ~ Do you have a favorite apple recipe you'd like to share? Email me at [ktrockey@calapple.org](mailto:ktrockey@calapple.org).*

### 🌟 CALENDAR OF EVENTS 🌟

- **CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE VISIT**  
Date: July 7-11, 2014  
Location: California
- **US APPLE OUTLOOK CONFERENCE**  
Date: August 21-22, 2014  
Location: Chicago, IL
- **US APPLE BOARD OF TRUSTEE AND COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Date: August 21-23, 2014  
Location: Chicago, IL
- **ASIA FRUIT LOGISTICA**  
Date: September 2-5, 2014  
Location: Hong Kong, China
- **UNITED FRESH WASHINGTON PUBLIC POLICY CONFERENCE**  
Date: September 8-10, 2014  
Location: Washington D.C.
- **PMA FRESH SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & EXPOSITION**  
Date: October 2014  
Location: Anaheim, CA