

COMMISSION ATTENDS WASHINGTON D.C. PUBLIC POLICY CONFERENCE

During the week of September 28, 2015 the California Apple Commission attended the Washington Public Policy Conference. This conference is an annual event held in Washington DC that provides the produce industry the opportunity to gather together and have a face to face dialogue with key members of Congress. This year, the Commission address topics such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP), the Mexico Anti-dumping case, the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirement concern, and of course the ongoing drought. If you would like to comment or would like more information on these issues, please contact the Commission office.



Alexander Ott and Todd Sanders of the CAC pictured with Congressman Jeff Denham

COMMISSION VISITS ASIA FRUIT LOGISTICA

On September 2-6, 2015 the California Apple Commission joined the US Apple Export Council in Hong Kong for Asia Fruit Logistica. During the trade show, the Commission sampled Granny Smith apples in an effort to increase awareness to California's excellent color and flavor. Currently, the Granny Smith variety is the most popular in SE Asia but the USAEC is attempting to introduce other varieties such as Gala, Cripps Pink, and Empire. The booth also provided the opportunity to address and educate the Asia fruit industry and government officials regarding last season's Listeria outbreak. The Commission would like to thank the USAEC for funding this venture. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Commission office.

COMMISSION ATTENDS PRODUCE MARKETING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

During the week of October 23-25, 2015, the California Apple Commission attended the Produce Marketing Association's international convention and exposition in Atlanta, GA. The convention allowed the Commission the ideal opportunity to meet with and maintain relationships with other industry leaders. The Commission also participated in a breakfast that was hosted by the US Apple Export Council. This breakfast was designed to bring all major importers from Mexico, Central America, Asia, India,

Russia, and others into one room and educate them about the U.S. Apple industry. This particular breakfast had around 150 guests with most of them demonstrating large interest in importing apples from California. If you have any questions or would like more information from the Export Council gathering, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office.

DEL MONTE RECALLS FRESH APPLES DUE TO POSSIBLE HEALTH RISK

According to a Press Release on October 14, 2014 issued by the FDA, Del Monte Fresh Produce N.A. Inc., issued a voluntary recall of Granny Smith apples due to possible contamination of Listeria monocytogenes. A total of 695 boxes containing 8 "Granny Smith" green apples each and 67 clear plastic bags containing 6 "Granny Smith" green apples each were distributed to Coremark and 7-Eleven for sale in convenience stores in the Mountain States region on Oct. 1-12, 2015. States affected include CO, KS, MO, NE, NM, OK, SD, UT and WY. No illnesses have been reported as the problem was discovered when a customer performed microbial testing on raw apples received. It has been released that **the apples involved in this recall did not originate from California**. For more information on this voluntary recall, please contact the Commission office.

NEW RESEARCH ON LISTERIA IN CAMEL APPLES HAS BEEN PUBLISHED

In a report published in mBio (the official journal of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM)) in mid-October, Wisconsin food safety researcher, Dr. Kathleen Glass, shared her findings regarding Listeria monocytogenes and the recent outbreak last fall. Dr. Glass conducted multiple experiments using the four strains of Listeria monocytogenes associated with the outbreak. The bacteria were applied to the skin of the apple, and a wooden stick was then inserted in to half of the test apples. All of the apples were then dipped in caramel and stored at either 25 or 7 degrees Celsius for up to four weeks. When examining the apples, Dr. Glass found that bacterial growth increased substantially on the caramel apples with sticks as opposed to those without. She also found that the apples stored in refrigeration showed far less bacterial growth than those stored at room temperature. She was able to conclude that the caramel apples with wooden sticks stored at room temperatures faced accelerated moisture transfer as well as bacterial growth. The full report by Dr. Glass can be found here: <http://mbio.asm.org/content/6/5/e01232-15.full.pdf+html>

EFFECTS OF TPP ON APPLES

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) will provide significant new market opportunities for U.S. exporters. The TPP strengthens trade rules and provides specific new market access commitments for U.S. agricultural exports to Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, New Zealand, and Brunei. Japan's 17-percent tariff for fresh apples will immediately fall by 25 percent and be eliminated in 11 years. Malaysia's five-percent tariffs on apples will be eliminated immediately. Vietnam's 10-percent tariffs on apples will be eliminated in three years. New Zealand and Brunei will immediately eliminate all tariffs on apples. The United States' tariffs on fresh apples, currently as high as 0.3 cents per kilogram (0.2-percent ad valorem equivalent), will be eliminated immediately. There are, however, many details left undisclosed and some leaders are hesitant to support the agreement until they have more information. Please stay tuned as the CAC will provide updates in the coming months.

EPA ANNOUNCES WPS REVISIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 20 YEARS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced late yesterday that the final rule revising Worker Protection Standards (WPS) will be published in the Federal Register within the next 60 days. USApple has been active on the issue, providing comments to the agency jointly with a broadly based coalition of association and agricultural organizations. These changes mark the first significant alterations to the WPS since 1992. The ruling outlines the following standards: increased frequency of mandatory training for workers, the first ever minimum wage requirement, limiting children under 18 from handling pesticides, mandatory posting of no-entry signs for hazardous pesticides, information available to workers regarding pesticide application, and a new record keeping requirement of two years.

MURKOWSKI PLANS DROUGHT HEARING

Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said she is planning to hold a legislative hearing to address the drought in California and other western states. The bills in the spotlight at the hearing will be Rep. David Valadao's Western Water and American Food

Security Act of 2015, which passed the House on July 16, and Sen. Dianne Feinstein's California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2015, which she introduced on July 29. Be on the lookout for an update on the scheduling of this hearing.

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APPLE BITES

Grilled Apples

4 baking apples

2 tbsp. sugar

2 tbsp. cinnamon

Aluminum foil sheets

Preheat grill. Wash, dry and core apples. In small bowl, combine cinnamon and sugar. Place each apple on center of aluminum foil sheet; spoon 1/2 tablespoon cinnamon/sugar mixture into core, and wrap apple in foil. Place foil-wrapped apples in small foil pie tins on the grill, and cook until apples are tender. Unwrap, discard foil and serve.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **U.S. Ag. Export Development Council**
 - Date: November 17-20, 2015
 - Location: Washington D.C.
- **Fruit Logistica**
 - Date: February 3-5, 2016
 - Location: Berlin, Germany



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