



Newsletter

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CAC MEETS WITH US APPLE EXPORT COUNCIL

On March 14, 2018, the CAC met with the US Apple Export Council to discuss current market access and USAEC funding. The USAEC is expected to receive approximately 1 million dollars in funding which will be utilized throughout 7-10 markets. 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 currently receives MAP dollars for inspectors and in-county representatives for Canada, Mexico, and Southeast Asia. USAEC markets include: Canada, Central America, India, Mexico, Southeast Asia, and the United Kingdom.

COMMISSION ATTENDS CAPITOL HILL DAY

On March 13-15, 2018, the California Apple Commission visited Washington D.C. The purpose of this meeting was to attend the US Apple Association Board meeting, and to meet with key Congressional members to provide information on current problems that face the California apple industry. Issues discussed were the Market Access Program (MAP), Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC), labor, crop insurance, and the upcoming 2018 Farm Bill that Congress is currently writing. For more information, please contact the Commission office.

CONGRESS REACHES DEAL ON SPENDING BILL

Congressional leaders finalized a \$1.3 trillion budget bill that will keep the federal government open through the remainder of the current fiscal year, ending September 30, 2018. This is good news because a government shutdown is unlikely to happen, preventing disruption to programs including H-2A processing. It also means important programs such as specialty crop research, Market Access Program (MAP), and crop insurance will continue to be funded. The deal is reported to include \$1.6 billion in funds for border security, but does not include funds for a wall, mandate E-Verify or include guestworker or DACA provisions. For apple growers who belong to co-ops, this should result in a status quo as regards to their bottom lines and deductions. For more information, please contact the Commission office.

DISCUSSIONS BEGIN ON 2018 FARM BILL

The U.S. Farm Bill is a comprehensive piece of legislation that Congress is currently writing. 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 provisions of the Farm Bill are divided into what are called "Titles", which are overarching categories related to food and farming in the U.S. The 2014 Farm Bill had 12 titles, and new titles can be added during the re-authorization process. Several things to note, if included in the 2018 Farm Bill, will be the re-examination of crop insurance, and a trade policy revamp.

FIRE BLIGHT POWERPOINT PRESENTATION AVAILABLE

On January 30, 2018, members of the California apple industry met to discuss the Fire Blight research for apples in California. Dr. Jim Adaskaveg, Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, of UC Riverside, gave a presentation on the topic of Organic and Conventional Fire Blight research. Fire Blight is caused by the bacteria *Erwinia amylovora* and is one of the most destructive diseases of pome fruit trees, including apples. Dr. Adaskaveg's Fire Blight presentation is available on line by visiting www.calapple.org, or you may request a copy by contacting the Commission office.

CHINA TARGETS U.S. AGRICULTURE IN IMPOSING NEW TARIFFS

China is imposing new tariffs on meat, fruit, and other products from the United States as retaliation against tariffs approved by President Trump on imported steel and aluminum. The announcement follows warnings Chinese officials have made for several weeks in an escalating trade dispute, between the world's two largest economies. China's Customs Tariff Commission is increasing the tariff rate and imposing a new 15 percent tariff on 120 other imported U.S. commodities, including almonds, apples and berries which could end up hurting the American farmers. The Commission will be following closely and will continue to update the industry as needed.

COMMISSION MEETS WITH UNDERSECRETARY MCKINNEY



On April 24, 2018, the Commission met with USDA Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Ted McKinney, and the California State Board of Food and Agriculture President Don Cameron. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the importance of international trade markets to California agriculture. Specifically, the discussions focused on the new tariffs implemented by China, the India market, the constant changing MRLs for export markets, including the EU, and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Currently, California exports approximately 8 – 15 percent of its apple crop. However, export issues that directly impact the Washington State crop will have an indirect effect on California apples. If apples are not exported, those apples may stay in the domestic market, driving down prices when increasing supply. It is important to ensure that these markets remain open and competitive in order to ensure that both international and domestic markets remain healthy. The Commission will continue to communicate the importance of free and fair trade with the administration and update the industry as these issues continue to move forward.

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APPLE BITES

Apple & Sunflower Seed Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 California Granny Smith Apples
- ½ C Sunflower Seeds
- 1 head Romaine Lettuce
- 2 Dill pickles, diced
- 2 Tomatoes, diced
- ½ C of your favorite salad dressing

Directions:

- In a large bowl, mix together the Granny Smith apples, sunflower seeds, lettuce, pickles, and tomatoes. Pour dressing on top, toss, and enjoy!

*Recipe courtesy: www.allrecipes.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **United FreshMKT Expo**
 - Date: June 25-27, 2018
 - Chicago, Illinois
- **Apple Crop Outlook & Marketing Conference**
 - Date: August 23-24, 2018
 - Chicago, Illinois
- **Asia Fruit Logistica**
 - Date: September 4-7, 2018
 - Hong Kong, China



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