



Newsletter

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FORM 700

As outlined by CDFA and the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), all Board of Directors must complete the necessary Form 700. Board members can submit their Form 700s electronically through eDisclosure. To access the eDisclosure system and complete e-filing Form 700, please log on to www.form700.fppc.ca.gov. You will see a list of positions that you are required to file a Form 700 for. Once completed, your Form 700 will be saved in your online-filing cabinet under "Previous Filings" menu.

As a reminder, the Form 700 is due April 1, 2021.

Should you have any problems accessing or completing your eDisclosure Form 700, please contact your assigned filing officer, Andrea Carey, at (916) 323-3213 or via email at Form700@fppc.ca.gov. As always, the Commission can help you file your Form 700. Please contact the Commission office for assistance.

INTERN SELECTED FOR 2021 YAL PROGRAM

The CAC's intern, Delaney Woolwine, has been selected to participate in the 2021 US Apple Young Apple Leaders (YAL) Program. Over the next six months, Delaney will be participating in virtual meetings and events with apple industry leaders and peers. As a Young Apple Leader, she will learn about the federal regulatory and legislative issues that impact the apple industry, how to advocate for the industry, and will connect with apple leaders from around the country. *The YAL program sponsors cover all costs associated with participation.*

SPECIALITY CROP BLOCK GRANT: TESTING NEW APPLE ROOSTOCKS IN CALIFORNIA

The CAC was recently awarded a Specialty Crop Block Grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's 2020 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP). The project, titled "Testing New Apple Rootstocks in California," is being conducted by Dr. Gennaro Fazio, Apple Rootstock Breeder and Geneticist of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA, ARS) from the National Apple Rootstock Breeding Program in

Geneva, New York. This grant will assist the industry in implementing rootstock trials that have the potential to increase the overall productivity of California apple growers, reduce the number of pesticides and post-harvest treatments, and create resistance to the destructive disease, fire blight. The rootstocks developed through the National Apple Rootstock Breeding Program have proven to be highly beneficial to other apple producing states and, to remain a relevant player in the apple industry, California hopes to reap some of these same benefits.

The CAC and Dr. Fazio are now searching for different test site locations in California. If you are interested in participating in the research project or would like more information, please contact the CAC office.

COVID-19 UPDATES FROM THE CAC

Since March of 2020, the CAC has been providing weekly COVID-19 updates via email. The purpose of these updates has been to share critical and up-to-date information with the industry regarding the pandemic. The CAC has now switched to a biweekly schedule for these updates. All past updates are available online at <http://www.calapple.org/covid-19-updates.html>. If you would like to be added to the email list to receive our biweekly COVID-19 updates electronically, please contact the CAC office.

CDPR BUDGET CHANGE PROPOSAL

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) has introduced a budget change proposal (BCP) that would replace the current flat-fee mill tax on pesticide sales with a new "tiered system," which would generate approximately \$45 million in new revenue. In a letter to California legislators, the California Apple Commission (CAC), alongside other agricultural organizations, expressed their concerns with the BCP. Concerns include the underlying assumptions made to justify the new approach, the timing of a substantial tax increase given the fragility of the economy, unintended consequences if this structure is adopted, and disagreement with how the additional funds will be allocated. For example,

none of the additional revenue will be directed toward improving pesticide registration timelines, while many of the formulations awaiting registration are likely to be more sustainable formulations. Whether or not CDPR has the statutory authority to attempt to influence the market in this way is also being questioned by the organizations who supported this letter. For more information regarding the CDPR BCP, please contact the CAC office. The CAC will provide more information as it becomes available.

UPDATES ON PORT CLOSURES AND CONGESTION IN CALIFORNIA

Over the past few months, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have struggled with detention and demurrage issues as well as a deluge of container imports that have ultimately resulted in numerous shipments of produce from California ports being denied or delayed. Consequently, US agriculture, food and forestry product exports have been prevented from delivering affordably and dependably to foreign markets. Unless the Shipping Act and other tools available to our government are applied promptly, agriculture industries will continue to suffer great financial losses; these carrier practices will render US agriculture noncompetitive for years to come. The United Fresh Produce Association and other industry colleagues will be sending a letter to President Biden regarding this issue in the near future.

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KASUGAMYCIN UPDATE

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Crops Subcommittee is still discussing the CAC's petition which requests the inclusion of kasugamycin in section 205.601 of the National Organic Program's (NOP) National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List). A technical report has been prepared for this substance and is available at the following website:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/national-list/k> .

In the near future, there will be an opportunity for growers to express their support regarding the use of kasugamycin on organic products. The CAC will make the industry aware of the comment period when more information is provided. Please contact the CAC office with any questions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **CFAP 2.0 APPLICATION DEADLINE**
 - February 26, 2021
- **OFFICE CLOSED- Good Friday**
 - April 2, 2021
- **FRUIT LOGISTICA (Virtual)**
 - May 18-20, 2021

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



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