



CALIFORNIA  
*Blueberry*  
COMMISSION

# Newsletter

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## **CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2.0 UPDATE**

To date, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) has approved more than \$7 billion in payments to US agricultural producers in the second round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2.0). In total, the USDA is making available up to \$14 billion for US crop and livestock producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Thus far, the FSA has approved more than 443,000 applications since CFAP 2.0 enrollment began on September 21st. The U.S. states seeing the most in payments are Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois, and Kansas. Applications for CFAP 2.0 are available through December 11, 2020, on the FSA website at: [www.farmers.gov/cfap/apply](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap/apply)

If you plan to or have already applied for the CFAP 2.0 funding, please notify the CBC office so that we may report back to USDA our industry's participation in the program. If you have any further questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact the CBC office.

## **USTR LAUNCHES SECTION 201 INVESTIGATION FOR BLUEBERRIES**

In September, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) elected to utilize its authority to request that the U.S. International Trade Commission commence a Section 201 investigation for blueberries. Following this announcement, the California Blueberry Commission (CBC) officially voted to adopt the position to actively support this Section 201 global safeguard investigation at their September 22, 2020, Board of Directors meeting.

California is a major world leader in specialty crop production, and blueberries are no exception. With the

industry on track to produce roughly 70 million pounds of blueberries for the 2020 season, California continues to be a leader in fresh blueberry production. However, as imports have continued to rise over the years, California growers have found it increasingly difficult to compete with foreign prices. Additionally, the CBC recognizes that foreign competition from imported blueberries negatively impacts not just the California blueberry industry, but the United States blueberry industry as a whole. Following deliberation at the CBC's annual Board of Directors meeting, the CBC felt it was imperative to vote in support of the Section 201 investigation in order to maintain the viability of the domestic California blueberry industry. As a result of this vote, the CBC agreed to allocate all available staff and financial resources to this effort. While the CBC acknowledges that a Section 201 global safeguard investigation is only a temporary measure, they found it imperative to uphold the overall mission of the CBC which is "to support the long term viability of individual California blueberry growers."

If you have any questions or comments regarding this recent announcement on behalf of the California Blueberry Commission, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office at 559-221-1800 or by email at: [tsanders@calblueberry.org](mailto:tsanders@calblueberry.org)

## **U.S. BLUEBERRY PRODUCERS, IMPORTERS, AND PURCHASERS INVITED TO COMPLETE USITC QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING SECTION 201 INVESTIGATION**

On behalf of the United States International Trade Commission (USITC), who is currently investigating fresh, chilled, or frozen blueberries under Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. § 2252), the California Blueberry Commission would like to inform the industry

of an opportunity to complete a questionnaire to aid the investigation. During this investigation, the USITC must determine whether fresh, chilled, or frozen blueberries are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury or the threat of serious injury to the domestic industry producing such blueberries.

Specifically, U.S. producers, importers, and purchasers of blueberries have been sent questionnaires directly via email. If you did not receive this questionnaire, please do not hesitate to contact the CBC office. As a reminder, foreign producer questionnaires were sent out on Friday, October 16th. All of the approved questionnaires are available on the USITC website at: <https://www.usitc.gov/blueberries>

Please forward the link to the questionnaires to your client(s) or member(s) for completion. Responses to the questionnaires are due **November 16, 2020**.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **OFFICE CLOSED- Veterans Day**
  - November 11, 2020
- **USITC Section 201 Questionnaire Deadline**
  - November 16, 2020
- **Asia Fruit Logistica (Virtual)**
  - November 18-20, 2020
- **OFFICE CLOSED- Thanksgiving**
  - November 26-27, 2020

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

## Blueberry Bites

### Blueberry Soda Floats



#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups fresh California blueberries
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 cups French vanilla ice cream
- 1 liter club soda
- fresh mint (for garnish, optional)

#### Directions:

- Add berries and water to a blender and puree well. Pour the blueberry puree through a fine mesh sleeve to remove most of the skin (some will remain, if the skin doesn't bother you, omit this step).
- Take 1/2 cup of the blueberry puree and add to a saucepan with 1/3 cup sugar. Whisk consistently until the sugar dissolves and is simmering. Remove from heat and let cool, then add to the rest of the puree.
- Add a spoonful of blueberry mixture to the bottom of a large glass, then top with 1-2 scoops of vanilla ice cream. Add more blueberry mixture, then fill the rest of the way with club soda and stir.
- Enjoy!

*Recipe courtesy of [yummly.com](http://yummly.com) and [californiagrown.org](http://californiagrown.org)*

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### California Blueberry Commission

2565 Alluvial Ave., Ste. 152

Clovis, CA 93611

PH: (559) 221-1800

FAX: (559) 456-9099

[www.calblueberry.org](http://www.calblueberry.org)