



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas, and
Happy New Year from the CBC!*

Newsletter

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AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The California Blueberry Commission, and several other agricultural groups based in the San Joaquin Valley, have joined with West Hills College Lemoore, to launch a valley-wide ag leadership initiative to foster the next generation of leaders. The course will be launched on January 23, 2019. The program will be available to all community college students in the region. Students will produce reports on significant issues affecting agriculture and meet weekly with agricultural leaders in a classroom setting, and culminates with a trip to Sacramento where the students will interact with legislators, gubernatorial appointees and consultants. For more information on this opportunity, please contact the Commission.

E-DISCLOSURE FOR E-FILING FORM 700 REMINDER

As outlined by CDFA and the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) all Board of Directors filers must complete the necessary Form 700. Board members are now eligible to submit your Form 700 electronically through eDisclosure. To access eDisclosure system and complete your e-filing Form 700, please log on to <https://form700.fppc.ca.gov/>. Upon login you will see a list of positions that you are required to file a Form 700 for. Once completed, your Form will be saved in your online-filing cabinet under "Previous Filings" menu. **As a reminder, the Form 700 is due April 2, 2019.** Should you have any problems accessing or completing your eDisclosure Form 700 please contact your assigned FPPC filing officer, Christine Chen at (916) 324-7602 or via email at Form700@fppc.ca.gov. As always, the Commission can help you file your Form 700. Please contact the CBC office for assistance.

CBC TO ATTEND FRUIT LOGISTICA IN BERLIN

On February 6-8, 2019, the California Blueberry Commission (CBC) will travel to Berlin, Germany for Fruit Logistica. This is the largest fresh fruit trade show in the world, it covers the fresh produce business and offers a complete picture of the latest innovations, products, and services in the international supply chain. The trade show provides the Commission the unique opportunity to reach a vast audience of retailers and importers both around the world. For more information, please contact the Commission office.

CBC ATTENDS U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Members from the California Blueberry Commission staff recently attended the U.S. Agricultural Export Development (USAEDC) Conference from November 14-15th in Baltimore, Maryland. This

two day annual conference features many informational presentations regarding the current state of agricultural exports from the U.S. High-ranking members from the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and representatives from various Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) international posts were in attendance. A main focus of this year's conference was the current state of ongoing trade wars, tariffs, and a new funding program FAS has made available to offset some of these barriers. This program, commonly known as the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATPP), was designed to help U.S. agricultural exporters develop new markets despite the adverse effects of other countries' tariff and non-tariff barriers. A total of \$200 million in funding is available, and the CBC has taken advantage of this opportunity via the U.S. Highbush Council. Funding decisions are expected to be announced sometime in January, and the Commission will provide updates as they become available.

USHBC STATE MEMBER NOMINATIONS

The US Highbush Blueberry Council issued their Positively BLUETIFUL NEWS Newsletter. Inside the issue, topics include: Hot Topics-Announcements-Resources-Cold Storage Update and USHBC Meetings & Events. To receive the USHBC newsletter, please subscribe to their Positively Bluetiful newsletter on their website at www.ushbc.org and follow the link to sign up.

H-2A PROGRAM ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATE UPDATE

The National Council of Agricultural Employers (NCAE), met to discuss the 2019 Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) for the H-2A program. The H-2A program allows U.S. employers or U.S. agents who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs. On December 26, 2018, the new AEWR were published. Accordingly, the 2019 Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) proposed for California, will be paid \$13.92 per hour, for agricultural work performed by H-2A program, and U.S. workers, effective January 9, 2019.

CBC ANNUAL REPORT TO BE RELEASED IN JANUARY

In the near future, please be on the lookout for the California Blueberry Commission Annual Report. The Annual Report includes information on current and future research, education projects, market reports, and other pertinent industry information. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the Commission office.

FARM BILL PASSES

The 2018 Farm Bill was passed by both the Senate and House of Representatives and signed by President Trump on December 20, 2018. 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 legislation included a variety of federal grant programs, funding for farmers market and local food programs.

ELECTION RESULTS: CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP CHANGES

As anticipated, the 2018 mid-term election resulted in many significant transitions for the State of California and the U.S. as a whole. The greatest transition was seen in the House of Representatives shift in majority to the Democratic Party with a count of 199 Republicans to 235 Democrats. In California, the Republicans did not pick up any additional seats, but lost a total of 7. Two of these seats were Central Valley Representatives, David Valadao and Jeff Denham, with whom CBC staff have developed long-term relationships. However, despite these losses, the CBC will strive to develop the same level of interaction with new House members. With regard to California state election results, former Lieutenant Governor, Gavin Newsom, was elected Governor, Eleni Kounalakis was elected Lieutenant Governor, and former Congressman Xavier Becerra was elected Attorney General. Governor Newsom has not yet appointed a Secretary of Agriculture, however, the CBC will continue to update the industry with any new developments.

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Blueberry Bites

Blueberry Sauce

2 cups fresh or frozen California blueberries	1/4 cup cold water
1/4 cup water	3 tablespoons cornstarch
1 cup orange juice	1/2 teaspoon almond extract
3/4 cup sugar	1/8 teaspoon cinnamon

In a saucepan over medium heat, combine the California blueberries, 1/4 cup of water, orange juice, and sugar. Stir gently, and bring to a boil. In a cup or small bowl, mix together the cornstarch and 1/4 cup cold water. Gently stir the cornstarch mixture into the blueberries so as not to mash the California blueberries. Simmer gently until thick enough to coat the back of a metal spoon, 3-4 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the almond extract and cinnamon. Thin sauce with water if too thick for your liking.

Recipe courtesy of: <http://www.allrecipes.com>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Fruit Logistica**
 - Date: February 6-8, 2019
 - Location: Berlin, Germany
- **NABC/USHBC Meeting**
 - Date: March 6-8, 2019
 - Location: San Diego, CA
- **ANTAD Mexico**
 - Date: March 5-7, 2019
 - Location: Guadalajara, Mexico



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