



Happy Independence Day!
Newsletter

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U.S.-MEXICO-CANADA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

On November 30, 2018, during the G-20 Summit, President Trump, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and former Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto officially signed the U.S. Mexico Canada Free Trade Agreement, otherwise known as the USMCA. Although it has been signed by the three leaders, this agreement must now make its way through Congress for approval. Both Republican and Democrat members of Congress have their issues with the USMCA, however, the Trump administration's top trade official and current U.S. Trade Representative, Robert Lighthizer, has increased his outreach on Capitol Hill in recent weeks. At this point, it seems that both sides of the aisle are hopeful that the administration and House Democrats could reach some sort of resolution to get the USMCA through Congress with bipartisan support before the summer 2019 recess. The U.S.'s recent decision to lift the Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum against both Mexico and Canada will hopefully increase the chances of Congressional approval as well. The removal of these Section 232 tariffs have been a top priority of the Commission, and we are now focusing our efforts on securing Congressional support of the USMCA. For more information regarding the USMCA, please contact the Commission office.

U.S. IMPLEMENTS TARIFFS ON \$300 BILLION WORTH OF CHINESE GOODS, CHINA RETALIATES

On May 10, 2019, the U.S. increased tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods following a failed attempt to negotiate a trade deal between the two countries. The U.S. imposed tariffs consisted of an increase from 10% to 25% on the third released list of goods. These tariffs went into effect on all products shipped from China to the U.S. beginning on May 10, 2019. China retaliated shortly after with an additional \$60 billion worth of tariffs on U.S. goods, effective June 1, 2019. Blueberries were fortunately not included in any of China's retaliatory tariff lists. This could be due to the fact that the U.S. does not currently have fresh access to China for blueberry exports. The U.S. has been in negotiations with China for a number of years and hopes to obtain market access in the near future. However, this could then subject blueberries to being included on future retaliatory tariff lists issued by China. The Commission will continue to remain in contact with officials at the U.S. Embassy in China regarding the current trade situation, and will provide updates to the industry accordingly. Please contact the Commission office for more information or with any questions at this time.

CALIFORNIA BLUEBERRIES TO VIETNAM UPDATE

As you are likely aware, the U.S. was officially granted fresh market access to Vietnam for blueberries in March of 2019. Since this announcement, several blueberry packing facilities in California, as well as other states, have been registered and approved, according to the work plan requirements, to ship blueberries to Vietnam for the 2019 season. While the window for 2019 has since closed, facility and shipper registrations for the 2020 season will likely occur sometime during Fall of 2019. If you are interested in shipping blueberries to Vietnam next season, please be on the lookout for an announcement later this year. If you have any questions, or would like additional information on the market, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office.

CBC ATTENDS UNITED FRESH

On June 10-12, 2019, the California Blueberry Commission visited Chicago, IL to attend the annual United Fresh Produce Conference. The purpose of this visit was to create and maintain relationships and connections within the industry. From family businesses to global corporations, United Fresh brings together members across every segment of the supply chain to build relationships that are as solid with a handshake as they are a contract. This organization helps empower industry leaders to join forces and shape sound government policy. United Fresh delivers the resources and expertise that companies need to succeed in managing complex business and technical issues. They also provide the training and development individuals need to advance their careers in produce. Through these endeavors, United Fresh unites our industry with a common purpose - to build long-term success for our members, and to increase produce consumption.

CBC ATTENDS IBO CONFERENCE

On June 24-26, 2019, the California Blueberry Commission attended the International Blueberry Organization (IBO) conference in Richmond, Canada. The event was held for industry leaders around the world to discuss challenges and opportunities for the global blueberry industry, and the potential it has. The Commission is a member of the IBO and encourages more participation from the California blueberry industry. In 2020, the IBO conference will be held in Pennsylvania. Please contact the Commission office for more information.

COMMISSION ATTENDS

AMERICAN GROWN FIELD TO VASE DINNER

On June 12, 2019, the Commission participated in the 'American Grown Field to Vase Dinner' held in Sacramento, CA, which the California Blueberry Commission was a sponsor. Guests at the dinner were treated to dining on the lawn in front of California's state Capitol building, at tables adorned with farm-fresh flower arrangements grown throughout California, locally grown food, craft-beer, and wine for dinner. The trip also included an hour-long guided tour of the Capitol with California's agriculture attorney Mr. George Soares of Kahn, Soares, & Conway. Guests were treated to fresh California blueberries in some of the featured dishes and were given fresh flowers and a Field to Vase dinner reusable gift bag. The California Blueberry Commission would like to thank Mr. Jon Marthedal of Marthedal Farms for generously donating blueberries for this event.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- USAEDC
 - Date: July 9-11, 2019
 - Location: Arlington, Virginia
- Asia Fruit Logistica
 - Date: September 4-6, 2019
 - Location: Hong Kong
- United Fresh Produce Association Public Policy Conference
 - Date: September 16-18, 2019
 - Location: Washington, D.C.

Blueberry Bites

Red-White-and-Blue Berry Pizza



Ingredients:

- Flour, for the parchment
- 1 (16-oz) packaged refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- 2 tbsps. strawberry jam
- 2 tbsps. fresh lemon juice
- 1 lb strawberries, hulled and cut into pieces
- 1 1/2 cup fresh California blueberries
- 1 (8-oz) package cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup refrigerated whipped topping

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly flour a piece of parchment paper. Shape the cookie dough into a disk, then roll out on the parchment into a 12" circle or three 1/4"-thick circles. Slide the parchment (with cookie dough) onto a baking sheet. Bake until lightly golden brown, 15 to 18 minutes. Transfer the cookie (still on parchment) to a wire rack and let cool for at least 15 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, whisk together the jam and lemon juice. Add the berries and toss to coat. Using an electric mixer, beat the cream cheese and sugar in a large bowl until smooth, about 1 minute. Add the whipped topping and beat to combine.
3. Spread the cream cheese mixture onto the cooled cookie, leaving a 1/2" border. Top with the berry mixture.

Recipe courtesy of www.womensday.com.

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