



**GMO Labeling Bill passed through Senate**  
July 8th, 2016 the Senate passed S.764. This bipartisan GMO labeling bill was introduced by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts and Ranking Minority Member Debbie Stabenow. The compromise legislation was designed to counteract the law that took effect in Vermont on July 1st. Also, this bill will prevent confusion and cost for the industry and consumers alike due to a plethora of state regulations that would have gone into effect when the law passed last year. The CBC is applauding the passage of this legislation and is hoping the House of Representatives will follow. The Senate Bill calls for mandatory disclosure of present GMOs which may be done by text, symbol, or a link to a website. The important distinction between this legislation and the bill that passed last year is last year's bill allowed for "non GMO" labeling but no requirement for labeling the presence of GMO. To read more about this article please visit [USApple.org](http://USApple.org)

that La Nina will form this upcoming fall, which means California is predicted to have less than average rainfall this winter. We have been experiencing El Nino which brought a higher than average rainfall but the flipside to El Nino is La Nina. La Nina could bring a cooling pattern that will make the state drier and could prolong the current drought conditions. To read more about this article please visit [KPBS.org](http://KPBS.org).

### CBC ANNUAL REPORT

In the near future, please be on the lookout for the California Blueberry Commission Annual Report. The Annual Report includes information on the 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.

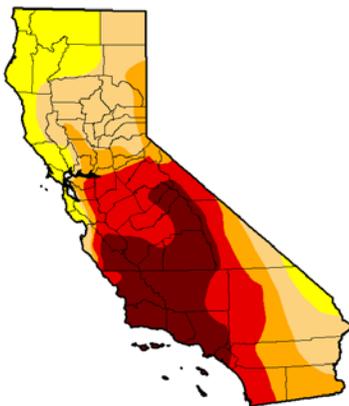
### JULY WAS NATIONAL BLUEBERRY MONTH

July 1<sup>st</sup> not only marked the beginning of National Blueberry Month, but also kicked off the celebration of 100 years of blueberries. The U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council began a year-long celebration commemorating 100 years since the first commercial crop of blueberries made its way from farm to table. Be sure to visit their social media sites to check out the exciting events they have planned for the remainder of the year. In addition, you can read more about history of blueberries on their website: [blueberrycouncil.org/about-blueberries/history-of-blueberries/](http://blueberrycouncil.org/about-blueberries/history-of-blueberries/)

### BLUEBERRIES MAY STAVE OFF ALZHEIMERS

Blueberries taken in powder form could help keep Alzheimer's disease at bay. During a recent study, the blueberry which is already known for its many health benefits may protect you from an aging brain. The test conducted showed improvements in older adults that showed cognitive impairment which is a risk factor linked to Alzheimer's disease. Brain scans showed an increase in brain activity in people who also consumed the blueberry powder. Blueberries are also packed with antioxidants which help lower your risk of heart disease. Read more about this article at [zeenews.india.com](http://zeenews.india.com).

U.S. Drought Monitor  
California



August 9, 2016  
(Released Thursday, Aug. 11, 2016)  
Valid 6 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	83.59	59.03	42.80	21.04
Last Week 8/2/16	0.00	100.00	83.59	59.02	42.80	21.04
3 Months Ago 5/10/16	4.27	95.73	89.68	72.72	47.92	21.04
Start of Calendar Year 1/2/16	0.00	100.00	97.33	87.55	69.07	44.84
Start of Water Year 9/20/15	0.14	99.86	97.33	92.36	71.08	46.00
One Year Ago 8/10/15	0.14	99.86	97.35	92.36	71.08	46.00

Intensity:  
D0 Abnormally Dry      D3 Extreme Drought  
D1 Moderate Drought    D4 Exceptional Drought  
D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for more details.

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

### California Drought Update

Although the state wide drought has been decreasing in the last year, predictions of La Nina suggest California could be in for more dryness in the near future. The most recent numbers from the U.S. Drought Monitor show less drought throughout the state compared to this time last year. Approximately 60% of the state is still in severe drought (or worse) but is also down from about 95%. The National Weather Service's climate prediction center is forecasting a 75 percent chance



## BLUEBERRY INDUSTRY VOTES TO CONTINUE NATIONAL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION PROGRAM

Aug. 18, 2016 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced the continuation of the Blueberry Promotion, Research and Information (USHBC). 74 percent of the producers and importers voting and 80 percent of the production volume represented favored continuation of the USHBC. With a majority of votes representing the majority of blueberry production supporting the program, the USHBC will continue. These research and promotion programs are funded by the industry, authorized by Congress, and date back to 1966. Congress has authorized the establishment of 22 research and promotion boards since then. They empower agricultural industries by establishing a framework for them to gain resources and combine efforts to develop new markets, strengthen existing markets, and conduct important research and promotion activities. AMS provides oversight to help ensure fiscal accountability and program integrity. Read more about this article at [USDA.gov](http://www.usda.gov).



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## BLUEBERRY BITES

### California Blueberry Muffins

1 cup fresh or frozen California blueberries	1/2 teaspoon baking soda)
1-3/4 cups plus 1 tablespoon flour divided	1 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 cup sugar	3/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 egg
	1 cup sour cream
	1/3 cup milk

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°F
2. Grease twelve 2-1/2-inch muffin cups
3. Toss blueberries with 1 tablespoon of the flour
4. Combine the remaining 1-3/4 cup flour, the sugar, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg and salt
5. Set aside
6. Beat egg, sour cream and milk
7. Stir into flour mixture until just combined (batter will be lumpy)
8. Stir in blueberries until evenly distributed
9. Fill muffin cups 2/3 full with batter
10. Bake about 20 minutes until golden

Recipe courtesy of: <http://www.blueberrycouncil.org>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Asia Fruit Logistica**  
-Date: September 7-9, 2016  
-Location: Lantau, Hong Kong
- **NABC/USHBC Meeting**  
-Date: October 5-7, 2016  
-Location: Philadelphia, PA
- **PMA Fresh Summit International Convention & Exposition**  
-Date: October 14-16, 2016  
-Location: Orlando, FL