

COMMISSION ATTENDS CAPITOL HILL DAY



Tabitha Francis (Intern), Executive Director, Alex Ott, Director of Trade and Technical Affairs, and Todd Sanders after meeting with Congressman Jim Costa.

On March 23-24, 2017, the California Blueberry Commission visited Washington D.C. The purpose of this visit was to meet with members of Congress to provide information on some of the current successes and problems that face the California blueberry industry. For example, issues concerning labor, crop insurance, and the security of MAP and TASC funds in the upcoming 2018 Farm Bill were discussed. All of these issues are vital to the California blueberry industry and could have dramatic effects on the industry in the future.

POSSIBLE LONGTERM DROUGHT SOLUTIONS

As California begins to move away from a drought emergency, state legislators feel the need to start moving toward long term solutions that will help safeguard the state against future droughts. The following are a few bills that have been proposed:

AB 1667: Introduced by Assemblywoman Laura Friedman, this bill would require the installation of landscape water meters on commercial, institutional, industrial, and multifamily service connections.

SB 740: Introduced by Senator Scott Wiener, this bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board, in consultation with other state agencies, to adopt regulations for developing oversight and management programs for the onsite treatment of water for non-potable use, providing an alternative supply of water.

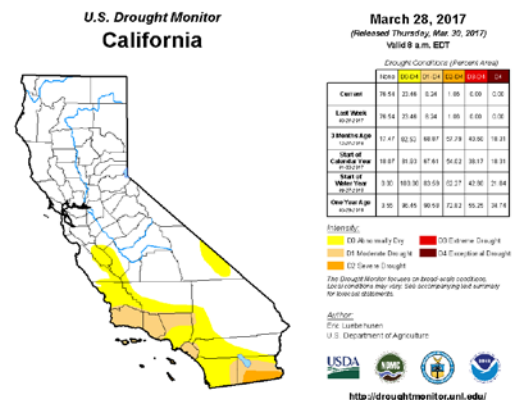
SB 252: Introduced by Senator Bill Dodd, this bill emphasizes the need for more transparency in new well construction resulting in better

management of groundwater sustainability. The bill would require any area overlying a critically overdrafted basin to make certain information about new wells available to the public and easily accessible before any new well permit can be issued. If the new plan is approved, a well completion report will be required which includes information on well capacity (such as the estimated pumping rate) and will also have to be made accessible by the public. To read more about this article, please visit californiadrought.org.

RESEARCH SUGGESTION FORMS

The California Blueberry Commission research committee will soon be sending out a request for proposal forms for suggestions on what to research in the future. If you have questions or would like to make sure you receive a suggestion form, please contact the Commission office.

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE



Drought update as of March 28th, 2017.

Drought conditions have stayed relatively the same as last months. The states of “extreme” and “exceptional” drought classifications have been lifted from the state’s drought monitor.

Roughly 8% of the state is experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions, which is a 1% decrease from last month. Now, about 77% of the state has been identified as drought free.

The Northern Sierra region has received 83 inches of precipitation as of April 3, 2017. It is on track to receive more precipitation than the 1982-1983 water year, which is the wettest on record.

The San Joaquin and Tulare Basin regions remain wet although they are not on track to surpass the wettest record years. These regions have received about 65 and 43 inches of cumulative rain, which is almost doubling the long-term average for this date.

2017 AGRICULTURE CENSUS

Soon America's farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to represent agriculture in the upcoming 2017 Census of Agriculture. These Census' are conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS). The Census will be mailed at the end of this year. If you don't already receive the Census, you can sign up to receive it at www.agcensus.usda.gov by clicking on the 'Make Sure You Are Counted' button through June. A farm is defined by NASS as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agriculture products were produced and sold, or would normally have been sold during the census year (2017). For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture and to see how census data is used, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540.

INTERN SELECTED FOR PMA CAREER PATHWAYS

The California Blueberry Commission's intern has been selected to participate in the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) Career Pathways program. The program was designed to attract university students to the produce and floral industries. The intern will be paired with a career professional for three days, and will attend numerous educational workshops, engage in networking opportunities, and participate in a group project before the event that will enhance the entire learning experience. The PMA Career Pathways program is an all-expense paid trip paid by PMA and its sponsors.

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BLUEBERRY BITES

Blueberry and Goat Cheese Salad

- 4 cups mixed salad greens
- 3-4 ounces goat cheese or other soft cheese
- 1 cup fresh California blueberries
- ½ cup pecans or walnuts
- ¼ cup prepared Italian or balsamic dressing

Directions

- Arrange greens on four salad plates
- Slice or shape goat cheese to form four rounds
- Arrange in center of each plate
- Sprinkle blueberries and pecans on greens
- Drizzle dressing over salad

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **SIAL Exhibit**
 - Date: May 2-4, 2017
 - Location: Toronto, Canada
- **CPMA (Canadian Produce Marketing Association)**
 - Date: May 9-11, 2017
 - Location: Toronto, Canada
- **United Fresh Summit**
 - Date: June 13-15th, 2017
 - Location: Chicago, IL



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