



Newsletter

Issue No. 19

May/June 2018

CBC ALEXANDER J. OTT NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN PECAN COUNCIL

The California Blueberry Commission's Alexander J. Ott is the new Executive Director of the American Pecan Council. He will begin his position July 1, 2018. He served as Executive Director for the California Blueberry Commission since 2010, and in addition, the California Apple Commission for the past 13 years. Alex will relocate from California to Texas to lead the American Pecan Council. We are honored and grateful for the outstanding leadership and service as Executive Director to the California Blueberry Commission and wish Alexander all the best in his future venture.

CALIFORNIA BLUEBERRY ASSESSMENTS, DESTINATION REPORTS AND GROWER PRODUCTION

Assessments & Destinations: Handlers who pack blueberries must submit their completed assessment report(s) along with the assessment payment and attached destinations by August 10, 2018. Failure to submit reports or pay assessments may result in penalties and legal action.

Grower Production: Please mail in complete grower production information by August 31, 2018. According to state law, this information is needed to properly assist in the Commission duties. Penalties may be administered should this information not be provided. Should you have any questions please contact the Commission office.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTE ON TWO IMMIGRATION BILLS

Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan (R-WI), announced in June, that the House of Representatives will vote next week on two bills, one addressing border security and immigration reform measure and the other addressing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Conservatives have been clear that any deal must mandate that all employers verify the legal status of employees, known as E-Verify. Moderates sternly communicated that any discussion of E-Verify must also include a guest worker program. For more information, please contact your district's congressman or the Commission office.

MEXICO TO IMPOSE TARIFFS ON FRESH & DRIED FRUIT

The Mexican government has said it will impose retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods, including blueberries and other produce items, in response to the Trump Administration announcing it would impose tariffs on steel and aluminum from Canada, Mexico, and the European Union effective June 1. The tariff was applied on steel and aluminum imports because overcapacity in those industries globally is thought to be hurting US steel mills and aluminum smelters by driving down the prices of their product, forcing many out of business. NAFTA, generally prevents the US, Mexico, and Canada from imposing tariffs on imports from one another, but President Trump has been a severe critic of NAFTA, and the three countries are holding negotiations on possible changes to the free trade deal. The CBC and USHBC has been in contact with Administration officials as well as with our trade contacts at the Mexican and Canadian embassies.

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE PASSES FARM BILL

In June, the Senate Agriculture Committee marked up and passed the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, by a vote of 20-1. Many provisions are important to our industry. These include:

- Full funding for trade programs such as the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program (TASC);
- \$80 million in funding for all specialty crops under the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) and new prioritization for mechanization projects;
- Full \$85 million in funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) with \$5 million set aside for multi-state programs to be administered through the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

TODD SANDERS NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CBC

Todd Sanders has been named Executive Director of the California Blueberry Commission. His selection was approved by the CAC apple Board of Directors at the May 3, 2018, meeting. He replaces Alexander Ott, who has accepted a new position with the American Pecan Council and will relocate from California to Texas to lead the APC. Prior to being chosen Executive Director of the CBC, Mr. Sanders, served as the

Director of Trade and Technical Affairs for the California Apple Commission since 2005. In addition, Mr. Sanders will also serve as Executive Director to the California Apple Commission and the California Olive Committee. He graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a B.A. degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in International Relations from California State University, Fresno.

**ELIZABETH CARRANZA TO BE
NAMED DIRECTOR OF TRADE AND
TECHNICAL AFFAIRS OF THE CBC**

On July 1, the California Blueberry Commission will welcome a new Director of Trade and Technical Affairs, Elizabeth Carranza. Elizabeth was a former intern of the CAC and graduated from California State University, Fresno with a degree in Agricultural Business. Upon graduation, Elizabeth went on to serve as a Congressional intern in Washington, DC and then returned to California to hold the position of Program Supervisor for the California Olive Committee. Throughout the past two years in this role, Elizabeth worked under the direct supervision of Todd Sanders in overseeing the California Olive Committee's newly established international export programs. Currently, and with the onset of this new position, Elizabeth is pursuing a higher education in the form of a Master's Degree in

Communication Management online from the University of Southern California to be completed in 2019.



Blueberry Bites

5 INGREDIENT WATERMELON BLUEBERRY SALAD

Ingredients:

- 1 Med. seedless watermelon
- 1 ½ C fresh California Blueberries
- 1 lime juiced – ¼ C
- 4 Mint leaves - shredded
- ½ C Feta Cheese

Directions:

1. Slice Watermelon and using a small star cookie cutter cut into shapes and place in large mixing bowl.
2. Add blueberries, mint leaves, feta cheese, and lime juice.
3. Toss gently.
4. Serve immediately or store covered in fridge until ready to serve.
5. Servings: 10 people.

Recipe courtesy of www.stephaniesain.com.

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***Did you know you can receive an e-newsletter instead of the snail mail version? If you would like to sign up, please email intern@calapple.org.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **United FreshMKT Expo**
-Date: June 25-27, 2018
-Chicago, Illinois
- **Asia Fruit Logistica**
-Date: September 4-7, 2018



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