



Newsletter

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COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL PAID SICK LEAVE LAW

On February 19, 2022 the new 2022 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave law went into effect. This law provides covered employees up to 80 hours of COVID-19 related paid leave, with up to 40 of those hours for isolation and quarantine, receiving vaccines, and caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed and up to an additional 40 of those hours available only when an employee, or family member for whom the employee provides care, tests positive for COVID-19.

CBC VISITS CAPITOL HILL

In March, representatives of the California Blueberry Commission traveled to Washington, DC in order to conduct meetings with numerous Members of Congress to discuss the California blueberry industry's official position on important topics including: immigration, food safety, trade, transportation/logistics, labor, and pesticide policies, among others. This was an excellent opportunity to highlight many of the important issues for our industry in an effort to obtain additional support in the upcoming Farm Bill, and other relevant legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Commission office for more information.

HEAT ILLNESS TRAINING

On April 29, 2022, the Department of Industrial Relations, Cal/OSHA Consultation & Agricultural Organizations will be having a scheduled Heat Illness Prevention and Wildfire Smoke Training Session. The no-cost training will be held at the C.P.D.E.S. Portuguese Hall in Fresno. The program is intended for Supervisory Positions and certificates will be given upon completion of the two-hour session. Please [click here](#) to view the flyer for more information.

CALIFORNIA BLUEBERRY PACKET

To all California Blueberry Handlers, this year's Blueberry Packets for the 2021-2022 fiscal year will be mailed out on May 6, 2022. Included in the packet are the following:

Assessments and Destinations: Handlers who pack blueberries must submit their complete assessment report(s) along with the assessment payment and attached destinations by August 5, 2022. Failure to submit reports or pay assessments may result in penalties and legal action.

Grower Production: Please mail in complete grower production information. According to California 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 CBC office at (559) 225-1800.

UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

The California Blueberry Commission is conducting its Board of Directors elections for the 2021-2022 year. Nomination ballots will be mailed out the first week of June 2022. In order to nominate yourself or a qualified member, you will need to complete the nomination form and return it to CDFA. Following the nomination process, the names of all eligible producers and handlers will be placed on an election ballot and mailed to the industry. Those nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be elected as members of the board. All growers should be on the lookout for their Election Letter and Nomination Form.

DROUGHT UPDATE

Following the driest first three months of a year in the state's recorded history, Governor Newsom released an executive order on March 28, 2022 that calls on local water suppliers to activate drought contingency plans. This order also calls the Water Board to consider a ban on watering decorative grass around commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. To further conserve water and strengthen drought resiliency in this critically dry year, the Governor is encouraging suppliers, where appropriate, to consider going above and beyond the Level 2 of their water shortage contingency plans, activating more ambitious measures. To view the executive order, [click here.](#)

CBC ATTENDS FRUIT LOGISTICA TRADESHOW

The California Blueberry Commission participated in the annual Fruit Logistica Tradeshow, held in Berlin, Germany, from April 5-7, 2022. The Commission represented the California blueberry industry, and its members, at the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council Booth. Exhibitors from 86 countries and trade visitors attend Fruit Logistica every year. Fruit Logistica covers every sector of the fresh produce business and provides a complete picture of the latest innovations, products and services at every link in the international supply chain. For more information on this event, please do not hesitate to contact the CBC office.



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COMMISSION ATTENDS U.S. HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY COUNCIL SPRING MEETING

In March, the California Blueberry Commission attended the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC)'s annual spring meeting held in Tampa, FL. This event is an excellent opportunity to visit with other members of the industry and obtain relevant information on the USHBC's activities in Promotions, Exports, Technology, Research, etc. As a member of the Export Committee, Commission representatives also had the opportunity to provide input on ongoing export development, market access, and promotion activities as they relate to the California industry specifically. For more information on this event, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **2022 MRL Harmonization Workshop, San Francisco**
 - May 25-26, 2022
- **OFFICE CLOSED - Memorial Day**
 - May 30, 2022

Some events are being held virtually. Please contact the CBC office for more information.

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