



U.S. HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES PASS THE OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM ACT OF 2021

On December 8, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Ocean Shipping Reform Act (OSRA) of 2021 with a 364-40 vote. OSRA aims to crack down on unreasonable practices by container shipping lines, bolster U.S. enforcement against uncompetitive carrier practices, and improve transparency for exporters. The CBC has actively supported the OSRA and has been urging Congressional leadership to work to develop a solution to the ongoing supply chain issues. The CBC is pleased with the passage of this bill in the House, and will continue to voice support as it makes its way through the Senate. If you have any questions on the passage of OSRA, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office.

APHIS REMOVES FEDERAL DOMESTIC QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH

Effective December 17, 2021, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is removing the light brown apple moth (LBAM) quarantine in California and Hawaii. APHIS is reclassifying LBAM as a non-quarantine pest, removing all areas under quarantine, and removing movement restrictions on LBAM host material as they have determined that LBAM is no longer a pest of regulatory significance. The CBC is currently working with APHIS to ensure that this deregulation does not affect current market access agreements with U.S. trading partners. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office.

CDPH REQUIRES MASKING FOR ALL PUBLIC INDOOR SETTINGS

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) continues to monitor COVID-19 data in order to protect the health and well-being of all Californians. Since Thanksgiving, the statewide seven-day average case rate has increased by almost half (47%) and hospitalizations have increased by 14%. In response to the increase in cases and hospitalizations, and to slow the spread of both Delta and the highly transmissible Omicron variant, CDPH has issued updated guidance to curb the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

Beginning December 15, CDPH will require masks to be worn in all indoor public settings irrespective of vaccine status through January 15, 2022, at which point California will make further recommendations as needed in response to the pandemic.

On January 5, 2022 the CDPH announced that the mask requirement have been extended and are now required to be worn indoors until February 15, 2022.

Additionally, CDPH updated requirements for attending mega events, like concerts and sporting events. Prior to attending an event, attendees will now require either proof of vaccination, a negative antigen COVID-19 test within one day of the event, or a negative PCR test within two days of the event.

CDPH also issued a new travel advisory effective immediately to recommend that all travelers arriving in California test for COVID-19 within three to five days after arrival, regardless of their vaccination status.

BLUEBERRY STATIONERY AND GIFTS

Lauren te Velde, a California farmer, has created stationary and gift boxes with modern farm artwork that accurately depicts current farming practices. Her company, Paper Farm Press, features artwork that is inspired by local farms within a few miles of her studio. Pictured below is the blueberry box that includes greeting cards, a recipe card, and a "How to farm to feed the world" art print. These handmade boxes would make excellent gifts for current or potential customers, while also promoting California blueberries. They can also serve as educational tools when sending handwritten notes to friends or family.

For more information please visit the website, <https://www.paperfarmpress.com/>.



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#calblueberry @calblueberries @calblueberry



California Blueberry Commission

2565 Alluvial Ave., Ste. 152

Clovis, CA 93611

PH: (559) 221-1800

FAX: (559) 456-9099

www.Calblueberry.org

Blueberry Bites



California Blueberry Buttermilk Pancake

Ingredients: Bites

- 1 ¼ cups flour
- 3 Tbs. sugar
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¾ cup buttermilk
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 2 Tbs. butter, melted
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 cup fresh California blueberries
- 2 Tbs. confectioners' sugar
- ¼ tsp. ground cinnamon (or sprinkle confectioners' sugar on top and leave out the cinnamon)
- Maple syrup for dipping

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375F. Spray 24 mini muffin cups with non-stick cooking spray.
- In medium bowl combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt.
- Stir in buttermilk, egg, melted butter, most not all California blueberries, and vanilla, stirring until smooth and blended. Let stand 5 minutes to thicken slightly.
- Pour batter into mini muffin cups, filling each cup ¾ full. Top each with 3-4 California blueberries.
- Bake 12-15 minutes or until edges are golden. Run sharp knife around edges to loosen. Let stand in pan 5 minutes and then transfer to wire rack.
- Combine confectioners' sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over tops of pancake bites, if desired. Serve with maple syrup for dipping.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference - Savannah, GA**
 - January 6-9, 2022
- **OFFICE CLOSED - MLK Day**
 - January 17, 2022
- **NABC/ USHBC Spring Meeting - Tampa, FL**
 - March 1-4, 2022

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