



Newsletter

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U.S.-CHINA SIGN PHASE ONE TRADE DEAL

On January 15, 2020, President Trump and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He signed an initial "Phase One" trade agreement. This agreement is said to include commitments by China to purchase \$200 billion of U.S. goods, including an additional \$32 billion in agricultural products over two years. This \$32 billion will be broken down to \$12.5 billion in the year 2020 and \$19.5 billion in the year 2021.

It is important to note that U.S. blueberries could potentially be included in the list of products subject to China's purchase commitments; there are no specific purchase commitments for U.S. apples outlined in the agreement at this time. Rather, the list remains vague and features general HS code chapter headings, such as HS code 0810 for "fruit, fresh."

Aside from additional agricultural purchase commitments, this agreement also includes commitments from both the U.S. and China to uphold science and risk-based sanitary and phytosanitary measures, in addition to increasing technical consultation on maximum residual levels (MRLs).

Further, this agreement unfortunately did not include any commitments from China to reduce and/or eliminate any of the existing retaliatory tariffs on U.S. products. However, a commitment to "sign and implement a phytosanitary protocol to allow the importation of U.S. fresh blueberries to China" within 3 months of the date the agreement was signed was included in the agreement.

The CBC staff will continue to monitor the "Phase One" deal, and will provide any additional information as it becomes available. Please do not hesitate to contact the CBC office with any questions.

eDISCLOSURE FOR e-FILING FORM 700

As outlined by CDFA and the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), all Board of Directors must complete the necessary Form 700. Board members are now eligible to submit their Form 700s electronically through eDisclosure. To access the eDisclosure system and complete e-filing Form 700, please log on to www.form700.fppc.ca.gov. Upon logging in, you will see a list of positions that you are required to file a Form 700 for. Once completed, your Form 700 will be saved in your online-filing cabinet under "Previous Filings" menu.

As a reminder, the Form 700 is due April 1, 2020.

Should you have any problems accessing or completing your eDisclosure Form 700, please contact your assigned filing officer, Andrea Carey, at (916) 323-3213 or via email at Form700@fppc.ca.gov. As always, the Commission can help you file your Form 700. Please contact the Commission office for assistance.

UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

The Commission is conducting its Board of Directors elections for 2019-2020. Nomination ballots will be mailed out the first week of June 2020. All growers should be on the look out for their nomination forms. For more information, contact Janette Ramos at the Commission office.

COMMISSION TO ATTEND CAPITOL HILL DAY/ USHBC & NABC BOARD MEETINGS

The California Blueberry Commission will be visiting Washington, D.C. from March 3-6, 2020. The purpose of this visit is to meet with members of Congress to provide information on some of the current successes and issues facing the California blueberry industry. Topics to be discussed will include water, labor, tariffs and export issues, and more. The Commission will be taking part in individual meetings with Congressional members as well as joining the North American Blueberry Council (NABC) and U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) in advocacy-related meetings. If you would like more information on this visit, please contact the Commission office.

COMMISSION ATTENDS FRUIT LOGISTICA TRADESHOW

On February 3-7, 2020, the California Blueberry Commission participated in the Fruit Logistica trade show, located in Berlin, Germany. Fruit Logistica is the largest fresh fruit show in the world. It covers the fresh produce business and offers a complete picture of the latest innovations, projects, and services in the international supply chain. This trade show provides the Commission with the unique opportunity to reach a vast audience of retailers and importers from around the world. If you would like more information and plan on attending next year, please contact the Commission office.

COMMISSION ATTENDS 2020 WORLD AG EXPO

On February 11-13, 2020, the Commission attended the 2020 World Ag Expo, in Tulare CA. This is the world's largest annual outdoor agriculture exposition, held every year in February. More than 1,500 exhibitors display the latest in farm equipment communications and technology, show attractions, agriculture tours, special events, and women in ag events, to name a few.

In addition, free seminar courses were held focusing on a variety of important topics to dairy producers, farmers, ranchers and agribusiness professionals. For more information on attending next year's event please contact the Commission office or visit the World Ag Exposition website at www.worldagexpo.com.

INTERN PARTICIPATES IN STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

On January 2-12, the Commission's intern, Nicole Helms, participated in a 10-day study abroad through Fresno State to Santiago, Chile. The Chilean study abroad program primarily focused on agricultural production in Chile. In addition to touring farms and packing houses, the students had the opportunity to meet with USDA at the U.S. Embassy and tour the APHIS inspection site at Valparaiso's port. The exposure to another countries agricultural production and practices has instilled Nicole with a greater appreciation and understanding of the importance of pest and control measures and trade that the U.S. and other countries participate in.



Intern, Nicole Helms, visited an avocado farm in Quillota, Chile.

Blueberry Bites Balanced Blueberry Smoothie



Ingredients:

- 1 cup of California blueberries
- 1-2 cups of unsweetened coconut milk (If you choose to skip the protein powder, we recommend using soy milk for added protein)
- 1/2 banana
- 2 tablespoons of peanut butter
- 2 cups of spinach
- 1 teaspoon of chia seeds
- Optional: Add 1-2 scoops of protein powder and ice (as needed for desired consistency)

Directions:

1. Add everything to a blender and press go. Starts with 1 cup of coconut or soy milk and add more as needed (depending on the blender, you may need the additional liquid for it to blend smoothly).

Recipe courtesy of www.blueberrycouncil.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council Meeting
 - March 3-6, 2020
 - Washington, D.C.
- Global Berry Congress
 - March 27-April 2, 2020
 - Netherlands
- CBC Market Visit
 - April 13-17, 2020
 - Japan



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