



# Newsletter

Issue No. 34

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## ITC SECTION 201 GLOBAL SAFEGUARD INVESTIGATION DECISION

On February 11, 2021, after nearly a four month investigation initiated on September 29, 2020, by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the International Trade Commission (ITC) concluded that fresh, chilled or frozen blueberries are not being imported into the United States at such increased volume to classify as a substantial cause of serious injury, or threat of serious injury, to the domestic blueberry industry. In the near future, the ITC will release and make public its final report on the investigation. The Commission appreciates all of the hard work that the CBC members and ITC Commissioners placed into this investigation. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Commission office.

## CDPR APPROVAL OF SO2 PADS FOR EXPORTS

On January 21, 2021, the CBC received confirmation from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) that the use of Sulfur Dioxide Pads for export use only were approved for the following countries: Philippines, Gulf Cooperation Council, Malaysia, Japan, Vietnam, India, China, the UK, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore. CDPR has indicated that given the existing food additive tolerances in the above countries, the exporting of blueberries treated with SO2 Pads will not conflict with the laws and regulations of the respective countries in accordance with U.S. EPA's 1984 export policy. For the approved SLN label for SO2 Pads for export use only, please contact the CBC office.

## 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 can 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](http://www.form700.fppc.ca.gov). 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, 2021.*

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](mailto:Form700@fppc.ca.gov). As always, the Commission can help you file your Form 700. Please contact the Commission office for assistance.

## CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILLS SUPPORTED BY CBC

During the February 17, 2021, CBC Board of Directors meeting, the CBC Board voted to support two California Assembly bills which are designed to benefit the California agriculture industry by encouraging the movement of California agricultural products over those from other origins.

The first bill would require certain agricultural products shipped into and within the state to be produced in compliance with California health, labor, and environmental protection laws. Specifically, the Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture will be required to establish a third party verification system and establish a procedure for the department to audit shipments of the listed products.

The second bill would require all state institutions, including public schools, that purchase agricultural products to only purchase products grown in California unless that product is not available from an in-state source or is not grown in the state. This bill would delete the 5% bid preference for vendors that pack or process agricultural products inside the state over ones that pack or process these products outside the state. This bill would give an exemption to public schools that partake in the National School Lunch Program.

Please do not hesitate to contact the CBC with any questions or for more information regarding these bills.

## COVID-19 UPDATES FROM THE CBC

Since March of 2020, the CBC has been providing weekly COVID-19 updates via email. The purpose of these updates has been to share critical and up-to-date information with the

industry regarding the pandemic. The CBC has now switched to a biweekly schedule for these updates. All past updates are available online at [calblueberry.org](http://calblueberry.org) under the 'COVID-19 Updates' tab. If you would like to be added to the email list to receive our biweekly COVID-19 updates electronically, please contact the CBC office.



*Photo: COVID-19 vaccination site at O-G Packing in Stockton, CA where 150 agriculture workers from O-G Packing and neighboring packing houses were vaccinated. Photo provided by Guy Cotton*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **CFAP 2.0 APPLICATION DEADLINE**
  - February 26, 2021
- **USHBC VIRTUAL FLY-IN TO D.C.**
  - March 17, 2021
- **OFFICE CLOSED- Good Friday**
  - April 2, 2021
- **FRUIT LOGISTICA (Virtual)**
  - May 18-20, 2021

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



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## CALIFORNIA BLUEBERRY

### COMMISSION WEBSITE MAKEOVER

The new and improved California Blueberry Commission website is live! The new website features CBC publications such as annual reports and newsletters, consumer resources, research projects, COVID-19 information, and more. The B-MRIC reporting system will function the same as always and can be accessed through the 'B-MRIC' tab on the website or at the following link: [www.calblueberry.org/b-mric.html](http://www.calblueberry.org/b-mric.html).

Feel free to check out the updated [www.calblueberry.org](http://www.calblueberry.org) and please let the CBC office know if you have any suggestions. See below for a screenshot of the new CBC website homepage.



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