



NEWSLETTER

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CBC ATTENDS ASIA FRUIT LOGISTICA IN BERLIN



On February 2-5 2016, the California Blueberry Commission participated in Fruit Logistica, Berlin. This is the largest fresh fruit trade show in the world and provides the Commission the unique opportunity to reach a vast audience. Like Asia Fruit Logistica, the Commission was a partial partner in the U.S. Apple Export Council (USAEC) booth. The Commission will be compiling all business cards and contact information received at the show to distribute to the handlers in the near future. Please contact the Commission office for more information.

CBC ATTENDS SEMINAR ON FINAL RULE ON FSMA STANDARDS FOR PRODUCE SAFETY

On Wednesday, January 13, 2016, CBC staff attended the CDFIA Informational Session on FSMA Final Rule for Produce Safety. It was held at the International AgriCenter in Tulare, CA. An FDA presentation on the FSMA Produce Safety Rule was given by Ritu Nalubola, Senior Policy Advisor from the FDA Office of Policy. A recording of the webinar version of the presentation, along with additional Fact Sheets on the Final Rule on Produce Safety and Water Quality Requirements, can be found on the Commission website. For more information, please contact the Commission office.

WESTERN GROWERS ENCOURAGES ACTION AFTER INTRODUCTION OF SENATE WATER BILL

Western Growers President and CEO Tom Nassif released a statement encouraging congressional action following introduction of the California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act proposed by Senator Dianne Feinstein in mid-February. In his statement, he urged “both California senators [to] push this legislation to mark up in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.” He agreed with Senator Feinstein that “we need congressional action,

and we need it now” as “we have already lost billions of gallons of El Niño water to the ocean, water that could have been safely pumped and stored to help us through the current and future droughts.” Nassif also acknowledged the fact that, despite a strong precipitation year, the drought is far from over, especially when many of our existing policies are allowing water to flow into the ocean. Nassif stated that, “Federal legislation is urgently needed to provide greater certainty that water capture and storage will be maximized, and to allow for more storage in California and throughout the West.” To read Nassif’s full statement, please visit: <https://www.wga.com/press-releases/press-release-western-growers-encourages-action-following-introduction-senate-water>

USDA DESIGNATES 4 ADDITIONAL CALIFORNIA COUNTIES AS PRIMARY NATURAL DISASTER AREAS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 4 additional counties in California as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by the ongoing drought. These counties are: Imperial, Marin, Mendocino, and Trinity. These four additional counties were designated natural disaster areas following the original 12 listed in December. Due to their status, all qualified farm operators in the designated areas are eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), should they meet eligibility requirements. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. Farmers and ranchers in La Paz and Yuma counties in Arizona also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous. For more information regarding these programs, please visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

CHILEAN BLUEBERRY SEASON IN FULL SWING

The Chilean blueberry season started off slower than expected this year, but since week 51 of the season, shipments to the U.S. and Canada have been higher than last year’s season. In fact, in week 5, the U.S. market saw an all-time high for weekly arrivals with more than 6,000 tons of Chilean blueberries entering the market. Although these recent strong arrivals will not fully compensate for the lower volumes seen in the beginning of the season, the gap between this year’s total production and last year’s has significantly decreased. North American volume of Chilean exports has decreased by 2%, with numbers reaching 42,453 tons, accounting for 68% of Chile’s total season exports to date. In order to keep up

with the large amounts of blueberries currently in the market, the Chilean Blueberry Committee has launched a sequence of promotions in North American in order to engage consumers and ultimately promote their product. For more information on Chile's blueberry season, please visit:

<http://producenews.com/>

CBC ATTENDS PIECE-RATE COMPENSATION WORKSHOP

On February 19, 2016, the CBC attended a seminar hosted by the California Fresh Fruit Association (CFFA) and California Citrus Mutual (CCM). Their goal was to provide an industry-wide seminar to review how piece-rate compensation should be handled in accordance with the law. Assembly Bill 1513 created an optional program which permits employers to retroactively compensate piece-rate employees in exchange for a "safe harbor" from class action lawsuits. The bill also clarifies how piece-rate employees should be compensated as of January 2016. For more information on AB 1513, please visit: <http://legislature.ca.gov>

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH: NEW RESEARCH YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

Eating three or more servings of blueberries each week may help reduce a woman's risk of heart attack, a large new study suggests. The study included nearly 94,000 young and middle-aged women who took part in the Nurses' Health Study II. The women completed questionnaires about their diet every four years for 18 years. During the study period, 405 participants had heart attacks. Women who ate the most blueberries were 32 percent less likely to have a heart attack, compared to women who ate berries a mere once a month or even less. This held true even among women who ate a diet rich in other fruits and vegetables. Blueberries are shown to contain high levels of compounds which are known to help widen arteries and counter plaque buildup, the researchers said. Heart attacks can occur when plaque blocks blood flow to the heart. For more information on the study, or for more heart healthy tips, please visit: www.health.com

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BLUEBERRY BITES

Heart Healthy Edition

Blueberry Quinoa Breakfast Bars

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1½ cups quick cooking oats | 2 eggs |
| 1 cup cooked quinoa | 2 tablespoons nut/seed butter |
| 1 teaspoon baking powder | 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice |
| ⅓ cup coconut sugar | 1 teaspoon vanilla (powder or extract) |
| ¼ cup hemp seeds | 1½ cups fresh blueberries |
| 1 cup mashed bananas (about 2 medium) | |

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a 9"x 9" baking sheet with parchment paper and grease the sides with cooking spray. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the oats, quinoa, sugar, baking powder, and hemp seeds. In a separate bowl, mix the banana, nut butter, flax eggs, lemon juice and vanilla. Pour this mixture over the dry ingredients, mixing everything together until fully incorporated. The batter should be moist, but not runny. Fold in the blueberries. Transfer the batter into the prepared pan and smooth with a spatula. Bake on the center rack for 25 - 35 minutes until the bars are golden brown and firm to the touch. Remove and let cool completely in the pan, then remove and slice into squares (or rectangles). Store in an airtight container for 4 - 5 days. Recipe courtesy of: <http://simplyquinoa.com>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **USHBC**
-Date: March 2-4, 2016
-Location: Arlington, TX
- **APHIS-USDA Irradiation Meeting**
-Date: March 23-24, 2016
-Location: Anaheim, CA
- **CPMA Convention & Trade Show**
-Date: April 12-14, 2016
-Location: Alberta, Canada



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