# CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION MARGE

VOL.40 - NO.15

# PORT OF OAKLAND DISRUPTIONS



Protests by truckers have resulted in work slowdowns or work stoppages at the Port of Oakland. The protests have been going on for almost a full week over AB 5, a state law that reclassifies independent contractors as employees. The port is one of the largest

locations for the export of agricultural products.

The Association has engaged with Governor Newsom and his Administration on this issue, and the ramification of continual days of shut down will have on the industry.

For any disruptions you are currently seeing, please contact Ian LeMay at ilemay@cafreshfruit.com.

## FARM BILL LISTENING SESSIONS



CDFA, in partnership with the California Department of Public Health, California Natural Resources Agency and Cal EPA, is leading listening sessions with all farm bill stakeholders to inform California's priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill.

The 2023 Farm Bill is an opportunity for California farmers and ranchers to influence national agricultural policy to maximize the benefits for all

Californians – from farmers and ranchers to consumers. Although California agriculture traditionally leads the country in production value and sustainable agriculture, we are currently facing a wide range of challenges and your input on farm bill programs and policies is more important than ever.

Please help ensure as many voices and perspectives are included as possible by forwarding this email to your members and partner organizations. Please feel free to use the attached flyer.

Calendar of listening sessions below. For more information, farm bill resources and the option to submit comments online, please go to https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Farm\_Bill/. Comments or questions may also be emailed to farmbill@cdfa.ca.gov.

Virtual Listening Session

August 10th, 9 to 11 a.m. Spanish translation provided.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtde2qrDIvGtB0krzFIkOl1BX PhlZ0qsy-

Live Only

August 23rd, 12 to 2 p.m. Fresno County Farm Bureau 1274 W. Hedges Avenue Fresno, CA 93728

# CFFA HARVEST EVENT SET FOR OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

California Fresh Fruit Association PAC would like to invite you to join us for our 43rd Annual Harvest Event, taking place from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, October 21st at the Vintage Press Restaurant (216 N. Willis, Visalia).

Only 100 numbers will be sold and those who are lucky enough to claim one will have the chance to win one of many great prizes, including the \$5,000 grand prize!

Ticket cost is \$300 and includes dinner for two and one Reverse Drawing number. Ticket cost for one Reverse Drawing number is \$200. All proceeds benefit the Association's political action committee, FruitPAC.

You may also register, sponsor, & pay for the harvest event online! Simply following (http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=tcpx4zdab&oeidk=a 07ej8wfmag3e5e1af8) to reserve your ticket number & pay with a credit card via PayPal (you do NOT need to have a PayPal account in order to use this option).

Sponsorship Opportunities: Our Associate Members may also use our online registration to become event sponsors! The cost of a Silver Sponsorship is \$1,000 and includes two dinners & one number. The cost of a Gold Sponsorship is \$1,500 and includes four dinners & two numbers.

Both Sponsorship levels will also receive promotional consideration before, during, & after the event, in the form of recognition in OnTarget, our Harvest Event program, Annual Report & more! We hope that you will support this very important event.

more information, Adam **Borchard** For please contact (aborchard@cafreshfruit.com) Allyson Calderon or (acalderon@cafreshfruit.com).

# A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT Sponsors! **GOLD SPONSORS**







# CAL/OSHA UPDATES EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD DEFINITIONS

The California Department of Public Health issued a State Public Health Officer Order (Order) which provided updates to the definitions of "close contact" and "infectious period" under the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Cal/OSHA) Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS). The full text of the Order can be found at (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-ofthe-State-Public-Health-Officer-Beyond-Blueprint.aspx).

The definitions are updates as follows:

a. Close Contact is now defined as someone sharing the same indoor airspace (e.g., home, clinic waiting room, airplane etc.) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) during an infected person's (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) infectious period.

For the purposes of identifying close contacts and exposures, infected persons who test negative on or after Day 5 and end isolation are no longer considered to be within their infectious period. Such persons should continue to follow CDPH isolation recommendations, including wearing a well-fitting face mask through Day 10.

This is a significant change from the prior definition of close contact which was limited to individuals within six feet of the COVID-19 positive individual for 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period. According to the CDPH, the reason for this change is because science has indicated that COVID-19 is an airborne disease, rather than one spread by respiratory droplets. Removing this physical distance limitation will potentially make everyone working in the same indoor space a close contact, potentially even if working on opposite ends of a large warehouse. This will significantly impact employer testing requirements, including the requirement to provide testing at no cost and during paid time to employees who had a close contact at work, with some exceptions. This definitional change will also affect exclusion and return to work requirements.

#### b. Infectious Period is defined as:

- For symptomatic infected persons, two days before the infected person had any symptoms through Day 10 after symptoms first appeared (or through Days 5-10 if testing negative on Day 5 or later), and 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved, OR
- For asymptomatic infected persons, two days before the positive specimen collection date through Day 10 after positive specimen collection date (or through Days 5-10 if testing negative on Day 5 or later) after specimen collection date for their first positive COVID-19 test.

### What This Means for Employers:

CDPH's new definitions now apply to the ETS because the third readoption states that its definitions of "close contact" and "infectious period" will change if CDPH changes its definition of those terms by regulation or order. Thus, the new definition provided in the Order was effective immediately as of its release on June 8, 2022. Employers should review these new definitions, update their COVID-19 Prevention Programs (CPP) and evaluate COVID-19 hazards relating to these new definitions. Contact your employment counsel to ensure your policies apply the new definitions. The attorneys at Barsamian & Moody are available if you need assistance in evaluating the new definitions as they relate to your CPP practices or hazards and to assist in implementation of your policies.

The goal of this article is to provide employers with current labor and employment law information. The contents should neither be interpreted as, nor construed as legal advice or opinion. The reader should consult with **Barsamian & Moody** at (559) 248-2360 for individual responses to questions or concerns regarding any given situation.

# ALLIANCE FOR FOOD AND FARMING CONSUMER RESEARCH SHOWS CONFIDENCE IN FARMERS TO PROTECT PRODUCE SAFETY



In a recent study by the Alliance for Food and Farming (AFF) reveals consumers continue to trust farmers when it comes to protecting the safety of their fruits and vegetables. In the new survey, 76% of consumers said they have confidence in farmers to protect produce safety.

Government agencies are also trusted by consumers, according to the survey. Despite media reports and public statements to the contrary, 78% percent of survey participants responded they were confident in regulatory systems in place to protect public health.

The confidence shown in farmers is not unique to this research project. Consumers recognize that farming is hard work, and it takes passionate and committed people to grow and nurture fruits and vegetables. For those of us who represent farmers, it is incumbent on us to continue to share information about farming practices, government safety requirements and regulations as well as the care farmers and farm workers take every day to produce these healthy foods.

The AFF has developed a new webpage at <u>safefruitsandveggies.com</u> highlighting the research results. The consumer research project included three virtual focus groups followed by a nationwide survey with a 3.1 margin of error. To access the full report, please visit (<a href="https://www.safefruitsandveggies.com/blog/new-research-consumers-have-confidence-in-farmers-to-protect-produce-safety/">https://www.safefruitsandveggies.com/blog/new-research-consumers-have-confidence-in-farmers-to-protect-produce-safety/</a>).

## CPS ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF CAREER WEBPAGE



The Center for Produce Safety has launched a Careers section on their website. CPS plans to highlight open food safety positions, internships, and post-doctoral positions.

To access the Careers webpage, please visit the CPS website at <a href="www.centerforproducesafety.org">www.centerforproducesafety.org</a> and click on the "Careers - Open Positions" button. You will be directed to the Careers webpage to view all open positions.

# CFFA RELEASES 2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT



CFFA has released its 2021/22 Annual Report. Each year, Association staff puts together a review of the previous fiscal year that highlights the challenges and accomplishments that faced the California fresh fruit industry. To access the report, please visit

(https://cafreshfruit.com/about/annual-

<u>reports/</u>). For questions, please contact Director of Member Services and Communications, Courtney Razor (<u>crazor@cafreshfruit.com</u>).

# **CFFA MEMBERSHIP ROSTER NOW AVAILABLE**



CFFA's 2022/23 fiscal year membership roster is now available. An electronic version of the roster has been sent out to each member company and hard copies are available to those who requested to receive one. If you would like a hard copy version of the membership roster, please contact

Office Manager Allyson Calderon (<u>acalderon@cafreshfruit.com</u>).