



# Newsletter

Issue No. 3

January 2020

## **OGCC ASSESSMENT RATE**

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Olive Growers Council of California Board of Directors met at the Double Tree Hotel in Modesto, CA and via conference call at 8:30 AM. During this meeting, the assessment rate was set for the 2019-2020 crop. After much deliberation, the Board of Directors made a motion and voted unanimously to set the assessment rate at \$5.00 per ton. If you have questions regarding the assessment rate, please reach out to the OGCC.

## **USMCA OFFICIALLY APPROVED BY U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

On December 19, 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to approve the U.S. Mexico-Canada trade agreement (USMCA) with a strong bipartisan vote of 385-41. The USMCA will now make its way to the Senate, which is expected to ratify the agreement next year. President Trump and leaders from Canada and Mexico signed the USMCA, commonly referred to as the “new NAFTA”, more than a year ago on November 30, 2018. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said he will bring the modified agreement up for a vote once it passes the U.S. House of Representatives. The OGCC will continue to monitor the progress of the USMCA and will provide updates accordingly. Should you have any questions, please not hesitate to contact the Council office.

## **OGCC APPLIES FOR SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT**

The OGCC has submitted one proposal for the Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) program through the California Department of Agriculture, titled “Implement education outreach to current and future CA table olive growers.” The OGCC is happy to report that this proposal was invited back

to Phase 2. If funded, the grant program would begin in November 2019. The CDFA SCBG review committee will make a final decision and announce funding results later in spring 2019. The OGCC will provide updates as they are received. For any questions regarding these grant proposals, please contact the OGCC office.

## **CALIFORNIA OLIVE COMMITTEE**

### **NOMINATION BALLOTS**

On March 1, 2019, nomination ballots were mailed out from the California Olive Committee (COC) for the 2019-2021 Board of Directors. Ballots were mailed to the olive growers in District 1 (North) and District 2 (South). Nomination Ballots must be returned back to the COC office, and postmarked no later than March 31, 2019. Should you have any questions regarding the nomination ballots or would like more information, please contact the COC office directly at 559-456-9096. The California Olive Committee would like to thank the OGCC staff for including this article in their newsletter.

## **HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION TRAINING**

The Department of Industrial Relations, Cal/OSHA Consultation & Agricultural Organizations are hosting a free heat illness prevention training session. The training will be hosted on Friday, April 12, 2019 in both Spanish and English. The 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. session will be in Spanish, and the 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. session will be held in English. If you have any questions, please contact the OGCC office. The training will be held at: C.P.D.E.S. Portuguese Hall 172 W. Jefferson Ave. Easton, CA 93706

## **COURT DISMISSES ADVERSE EFFECTIVE WAGE RATES CASE AGAINST DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

The National Council of Agricultural Employers (NCAE) filed a court action against the Department of Labor in January 2019 to prevent the Department of Labor from implementing the new Adverse Effective Wage Rates in 2019. The 2019 adverse effect wage rate for CA is \$13.92, up 5.6% from 2018. Unfortunately, the District Court filed a Memorandum of Opinion on the lawsuit dismissing the order, citing the claims of the NCAE fell outside the statute of limitations. We will continue to keep the industry updated as we received more information, but please do not hesitate to contact the OGCC office for more information.

**CALIFORNIA RIPE OLIVE  
SPICY BEAN LAYER DIP**

**Ingredients:**

- 1 ½ cups California Ripe Olives
- 1 ¾ cups refried beans with spices to taste
- 1 ½ cups sour cream
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 1 cup diced tomatoes
- ½ cup sliced California Olives

**Directions:**

*Serve in a 9 inch pie plate with tortilla chips.*

1. Drain the olives and add to the spiced refried beans. Mix thoroughly. Spoon the olive bean layer into the pie plate and smooth with a spatula.
2. Add the chili powder to the sour cream and stir until blended. Spoon and smooth the spicy sour cream layer on top of the beans.
3. Sprinkle the cheddar cheese on top.
4. Sprinkle on 1/3 of the sliced olives.
5. Sprinkle on the tomatoes and remaining sliced olives.

*Recipe courtesy of [www.calolive.org/recipes](http://www.calolive.org/recipes)*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>First Day of Spring</b> -Date: March 20, 2019</li> <li>• <b>Memorial Day – Office Closed</b> -Date: May 27, 2019</li> <li>• <b>Independence Day – Office Closed</b> -Date: July 4, 2019</li> </ul>



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