



# Olive Growers Council of California

# Newsletter

Issue No. 7

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## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (SWRCB) ENACTS EMERGENCY WATER RESTRICTIONS

On August 3, 2021 the SWRCB voted unanimously on emergency water restrictions that will affect thousands of Central Valley farmers. The new restriction prevents 5,700 farmers and landowners from diverting water from the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds for agricultural use. Those who fail to comply with the order could face fines up to \$1,000 a day, as well as \$2,500 per acre-foot of illegally diverted water.

To view the SWRCB's statement regarding actions taken, please access it [here](#).

## CDFA ANNOUNCES ONE-TIME SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT

In July, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announced a one-time Specialty Crop Block Grant request for proposals under House Resolution 133 (HR 133 Stimulus Funding). This request for proposals is in addition to the regular SCBGP funding authorized by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 ("Farm Bill") and is a response to the United States Congress awarding additional one-time SCBGP funding to state departments of agriculture due to the COVID-19 impacts on the food system. CDFA anticipates that up to \$10 million will be awarded to projects enhancing the competitiveness of California specialty crops. Grant amounts range from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. The maximum grant duration is three years. The OGCC submitted a proposal entitled, "Development and Evaluation of Optimal Harvesting Technology for Existing, Mature Table Olive Trees." The OGCC should be notified whether the concept proposal was selected to submit a full proposal by November, and funding decisions will be announced in January 2022. If you have any questions regarding this grant program or the OGCC's proposal, please do not hesitate to contact the OGCC office.

## USDA UPDATES CFAP 2.0 PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has agreed to update the CFAP 2 program for producers of specialty crops, including olives. CFAP 2, which assists producers who faced market disruptions in 2020 due to COVID-19, is part of USDA's broader Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. USDA is amending the CFAP 2 payment calculation for sales-based commodities, which are primarily comprised of specialty crops, to allow producers to substitute 2018 sales for 2019 sales.

Applicants should ensure whether it is worthwhile for them to modify their original application. Newly eligible producers who need to submit a CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can contact their local FSA office. Producers can find their local FSA office by visiting farmers.gov/service-locator. The deadline for all eligible producers to apply for or modify applications for CFAP 2 is October 12, 2021.

## OGCC SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATES 2021 GROWER PRICING

As you are aware, the Olive Growers Council of California (OGCC) has successfully negotiated and has had a positive impact on ripe olive prices in California since its founding in 1978. The OGCC has been working diligently for the last couple of months to ensure the highest price possible was negotiated with the Processors. The California ripe olive industry has been faced with several challenges over the past year. The OGCC is meticulously working to lessen the negative ripple effect from recent industry events that continue to impact the California ripe olive industry. Although it has been a challenging last couple of years, we sincerely appreciate your membership and support of the OGCC. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this year's price negotiation or any other activities the OGCC has participated in throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact our office directly.

## US PORT CONGESTION EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH 2022

Thus far in 2021, ports across the country have already been swamped by record numbers of containers reaching U.S. shores during this year's peak shipping season. Consequently, the number of vessels waiting for berth space at Southern California's gateways is growing as logjams stretch into warehouses and distribution networks across the country. According to several port officials, the current backlog, coupled with expected volume of inbound containers for the remainder of the year, are expected to stretch the port congestion troubles well into 2022. The CAC is working closely with Congress and other organizations to advocate for solutions moving forward. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to the CAC office.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **OFFICE CLOSED- Labor Day**
  - September 6, 2021
- **United Fresh Washington Conference, Washington, DC**
  - September 20-22, 2021
- **Produce Marketing Association (PMA) Fresh Summit, New Orleans, LA**
  - October 28-30, 2021

*Some events are being held virtually. Please contact the OGCC office for more information.*

### Recipe Corner

#### Honey Glazed Sweet Potatoes

##### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 lbs. Japanese sweet potatoes
- Oil for frying
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped California black ripe olives
- Toasted white sesame seeds

##### Directions:

- Cut potatoes into 1/2-inch chunks and cover with water. Let stand for 5 minutes then drain and cover with water again. Heat oil to 360°F in a wok or deep pot. While oil is heating, stir together honey, sugar and soy sauce in a small saucepan until a glaze forms. Stir in olives. Drain sweet potatoes and pat dry. Fry in hot oil for 4 to 5 minutes or until potatoes are tender, cooking in batches. Drain on paper towels and transfer to a large bowl. Toss hot potatoes with honey glaze and olives; sprinkle with sesame seeds. Makes 6 servings.



*Recipe courtesy of californiagrown.org*



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