

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Action Needed Now for Immigration Reform

As Apple News goes to press, the Senate is poised to resume debate on the S. 1348, "The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007." The legislation was put on hold for a few weeks so that negotiators could work out the amendments to be voted on.

Major provisions of AgJOBS are included in the legislation and the overall bill is strongly supported USApple and the other 300 members of the Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform (ACIR). Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Larry Craig (R-ID) continue as champions for agriculture.

The compromise legislation took months to negotiate and was

announced just one day after the May 16 agriculture "March on Capitol Hill" for immigration reform. The legislation reflects a delicate balance between Republican and Democrat priorities, and in the true spirit of the legislative process both sides "gave up something."

During the initial debate, a number of "poison pill" amendments designed to kill the legislation were offered but failed. USApple weighed in with key Senate offices and urged Apple Senators to oppose such amendments.

After two weeks of debate, an impasse was reached June 7 when

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The New York agriculture industry meets with Senator Clinton on Capitol Hill during the fly-in on May 16.

INDUSTRY INFORMATION

USDA Plans to Collect Apple Data

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced it plans to conduct a series of surveys on apple production, costs, and returns across the country.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), a service that collects and disseminates statistics on U.S. agriculture, will be interviewing growers starting in October 2007 through April 2008.

NASS plans to include the apple producing states of California, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington in the survey.

Each year NASS conducts hundreds of surveys in the U.S. agriculture industry. Data on crops, plants, livestock, economics, chemical use and demographics, including farm labor, are collected and reported on for use by the industry.

This is the first survey of this scope focused specifically on a specialty crop. USDA officials said apples were selected as the first because of the regional differences in production and the agency's interest in organic production. Apples provide an opportunity to collect and compare data from both organic and

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Work on 2007 Farm Bill Underway

As Congress begins work on the 2007 Farm Bill, USApple and other members of the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance (SCFBA) are working hard to see that the needs of specialty crops are more equitably reflected in the final legislation.

“The EAT Healthy America Act,” and its Senate companion “The Specialty Crop Competition Act,” reflect the goals laid out by the SCFBA for the 2007 Farm Bill. Both bills focus on programs designed to grow demand and build the long-term competitiveness of specialty crops. Specifically, an expansion of USDA research dollars directed at specialty crops, and increased funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and Fruit and Vegetable (snack) Program.

Work on the new Farm Bill is already underway in the House, with the Agriculture Committee scheduled to consider the legislation the last week of June. At that time, the Committee will build on the recommendations of the six Subcommittees which met over the past month to consider the sections of the bill under their respective jurisdiction.

Due to stringent budget rules, the House Agriculture Committee has no

ready funding for programs to address the needs of specialty crops and the Subcommittees had little flexibility in the way they allocated funds. As a result a number of the SCFBA priorities were not included and those that were received inadequate funding.

The Horticulture, Nutrition, and Conservation Subcommittees in particular took a symbolic step further than current farm policy and represents a start in creating a more comprehensive and equitable Farm Bill. USApple and other members of the SCFBA worked with key sponsors of H.R. 1600 to make statements regarding the needs of specialty crops and offer improving amendments during yesterday’s markup.

USApple and other members of the SCFBA are also working to promote apple interests in the Senate. However, like the House, it will be a challenge when the Senate Agriculture Committee begins work on its version of the Farm Bill early this summer.

USApple will continue work with the other members of the SCFBA and Congress to achieve a more equitable funding level for specialty crops as the Farm Bill moves forward. 🍏

NASS Apple Survey Scheduled for 2007-2008

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conventional production practices.

The survey will be conducted in three phases. Phase I will screen growers and select those which meet the survey criteria. Phase II, scheduled to be conducted in late 2007, will survey growers regarding production practices. Phase III will then collect costs of production for the 2007 crop year and gather information about farm structure and income.

Respondents will be asked about their use of good agricultural practices and integrated pest

practices. The results will be a credible source of information for the Environmental Protection Agency when assessing agricultural chemicals and will be used to make regulatory and other policy decisions. Farm structure and income data will help USDA and Congress better understand the economic contributions of the apple industry to rural America.

Reports from NASS can be found on the USDA web-site, <http://www.nass.usda.gov/index.asp>. 🍏

AgJOBS Provisions Remain Intact

Immigration (from page 1)

Democrat and Republican leadership could not come to agreement. After much work, and a strong push from President Bush himself, Senate leadership announced that a new agreement had been reached and work would resume in late June.

Since the May 16 agriculture “March on Capitol Hill,” apple leaders from coast to coast have been working for passage of immigration reform. To date, nearly 1000 letters have been sent to 70 Members of Congress using the Legislative Action Center of the USApple website. Grassroots efforts have generated local newspaper, radio and television coverage.

There is still much work to be done. USApple is strongly urging Congress to pass a bill now to ensure a reliable and legal farm labor supply. USApple is also participating in regular strategy meetings between the business/agriculture community and White House in order to help push this legislation over the finish line.

Your help is needed too. Members of Congress must hear directly from their apple constituents on this issue. The opposition is jamming the phone lines and email boxes of House and Senate offices everyday and will stop at nothing to kill the reform efforts.

Please visit the “Keep Agriculture Working” section of www.USApple.org and send a strong message to your members of Congress that your business is depending on them to pass meaningful reforms this year (including AgJOBS). Contacting them several times is good; the opposition is out in full force. 🍏

2007 Crop Outlook Conference Set for August 23-24

The U.S. apple industry is a diverse business, with each part having its own particular challenges. But no matter what your role is in the apple industry – production or processing, importing or exporting, or apple marketing – you will find the information you need to be more successful at the **2007 Apple Crop Outlook and Marketing Conference**, scheduled to be held August 23-24 in Chicago at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Outlook attendees will get the latest information from world-class experts. Apple growing regions will provide insight to the current status of the market.

Leaders from key global markets, including China, Canada, Mexico, Europe and India will provide up-to-the minute production, marketing information, and future impact of discuss the role of such major players as China in today's market.

Outlook 2007 will offer the industry's first look at the coming American apple crop. Under-

standing the expected size is valuable business information.

Crop projections from **Outlook 2007** each year are consis-



tently reliable. The forecast goes beyond the August preliminary crop report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture - industry members from different U.S. growing regions, including growers, marketers, processors and others, also come together to develop the USApple crop forecast based on firsthand information from the orchards.

Attendees will have an opportunity to network with industry colleagues and peers from across the country. This networking provides access to important information on industry trends and industry news, as well as the future of apple varieties and genomics.

Outlook 2007 will once again include a roundtable discussion on processing and concentrate issues. The conference will also include the latest in consumer research and trends.

We thank our sponsors Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroSciences, Syngenta, Makhteshim Agan of North America, AgroFresh, and BASF for supporting the 2007 conference.

Registration is available online at www.USApple.org. Sign up soon for early registration savings - the deadline for reduced rate rooms is July 19, 2007, so don't wait! The Four Seasons has historically sold out of rooms, so be sure to make reservations early.

For more information, visit www.USApple.org. Registration information can be obtained by emailing Melaine Sprigler at MSprigler@USApple.org.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. If you are interested positioning your company before leaders of the U.S. apple industry as a sponsor, contact Jim Cranney at JCranney@USApple.org.

See you in Chicago! 🍏

USAPPLE MEMBERSHIP

Selection of New USApple Regional Trustees

USApple Chairman Kelly Henggeler, an apple grower and marketer from Fruitland, Idaho, has appointed a Regular Trustee Nominating Subcommittee to nominate 3 members to the USApple Board of Trustees for 2007-2008.

There are 9 at-large Regular Trustees on the 24-member Board, elected by USApple members that represent partnerships, corporations, cooperatives and other business entities primarily engaged in preparing fruit for market or marketing fruits and fruit products.

Each year, 3 of the 9 regular trustees of the Board are elected to a 3-year term at the USApple Annual Meeting. This year's An-

nual Meeting will start at 8:00 a.m. on August 24 during USApple's **2007 Apple Crop Outlook and Marketing Conference**. This year's conference will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago. The Sub-committee Chairman is Bob Price, *Price Cold Storage & Packing Co.*, Yakima, WA.

Members of the Sub-committee include: Frank Carlson, *Carlson Orchards, Inc.*, Harvard, MA; Dennis Courtier, *Pepin Heights Orchard*, Lake City, MN; John Graden, *Dovex Fruit Company*, Kirkland, WA; Micahel Rothwell, *BelleHarvest Sales*, Belding, MI.

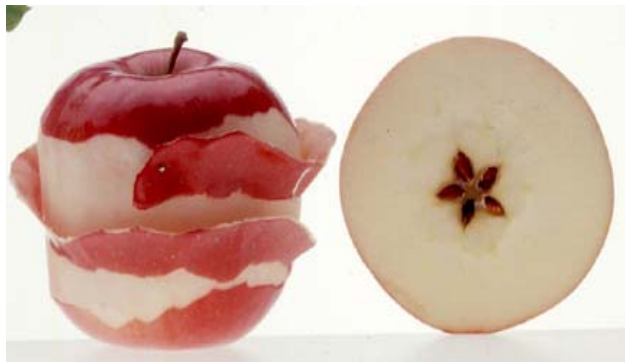
Apple Peel Research Reveals Anticancer Activity

It's no secret that apples have historically played an important role in maintaining a healthful lifestyle. But what is it about the apple that "...keeps the doctor away"? Scientists in the Department of Food Science at Cornell University have concluded that the peel may, in large part, account for the potential cancer-fighting capabilities of apples.

Dr. Rui Hai Liu and his research team at Cornell looked at the chemical composition of apples and identified a group of phytochemicals that are more abundant in the peel and appear to kill or inhibit the growth of at least three different types of human cancer cells: colon, breast and liver.

In the study, recently published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, researchers processed 230 pounds of apples and extracted the chemical content of the

apple peel. Liu and co-author Xiangjiu He then isolated the phytochemical compounds in the peels and tested them on each of the 3 different types of cancer cells. Of the 12 compounds tested, most



exhibited potent anti-cancer activity against all 3 cancer cells.

In previous studies, Liu identified apple compounds that appeared to inhibit mammary tumor growth in rats. In this study compounds called triterpenoids were

effective against breast, liver and colon cancer cells.

Apples contain a large concentration of various phytochemical compounds, including flavonoids, which act as powerful antioxidants. Liu suggests that, based on his research, apples are one of the largest sources of flavonoids in the American diet. According to the researchers, apples with peels "...may impart health benefits when consumed and should be regarded as a valuable source of natural antioxidants or bioactive compounds."

For more information, visit www.USApple.org.

Source: R.H. Liu, X "Triterpenoids Isolated from Apple Peels Have Potent Antiproliferative Activity and May Be Partially Responsible for Apple's Anticancer Activity," *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*. 🍏

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