

Northwest Fruit Exporters
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Mexico - Apples

There is no news to report regarding the duty issue. The government offices are scaled down to skeleton operations during the holiday season.

Shipments to Mexico for the week of December 23, were 108 loads as compared to 73 last year. Season to date shipments are well ahead of last season; 1,271 trailer loads as compared to 920 last season.

India

USDA/FAS has announced an invitation to private US firms to travel to India on a trade mission. The trip is scheduled for March 12-19. Registrations are requested by January 17, 2006. If interested, you may contact Shani Zebooker at 202-720-2075 or email Shani.Zebooker@usda.gov .

Japan – Apples

NFE worked with the USDA APHIS PPQ National Trade Director on a new export protocol that may allow display cartons to be shipped to Japan by using a “Cool Guard” or “Fly Guard” type pallet cover. The proposal was forwarded to Tokyo this week. Historically, shipping containers must be adequately sealed so as to prevent picking up a hitchhiker pest.

Japan Cherries

Sad News: Former USDA APHIS PPQ officer Dick Withee, 58, was killed in a traffic accident Tuesday, December 27, 2005. He retired from USDA last year and was currently employed part-time by WSDA to work with USDA on a Sudden Oak Death program.

Tentative funeral arrangements have been made for Wednesday January 4th, 2:00 pm.
Acacia Cemetery
14951 Bothell Way NE
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155
Phone: 206-362-5525

A Celebration of Life service will follow at Lake Forest Park Presbyterian Church at 3:00pm.
Lake Forest Park Presbyterian Church
17440 Brookside Blvd. | NE Seattle, WA 98155
Phone: 206-364-2712

Cards may be sent to: his wife Linda Withee at: P.O. Box 652, Gold Bar, WA 98251; and to his daughters: Laura and Paul Reed, and Dawn Withee at 24327 4th Pl. West, Bothell, WA 98021

Dick was a good friend of NFE and the Japan cherry program. He was assigned to the program in its formative years and retired as Export Trade Specialist for the State and manager of the cherry program. He worked many late night hours to save fumigations and shipments on behalf of the industry. We lost a valuable ally when he retired. However, he has been only a telephone call away and his knowledge of the early days of the program was still happily provided. He will be missed.