

MITIGATION MEASURES SOON TO BE ANNOUNCED

Last month, the President announced a \$12 billion package to assist industries impacted by the Chinese tariffs. The Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, announced that the US Department of Agriculture will take several steps to assist farmers in response to trade damage from the retaliation. USDA outlined the assistance may be provided through the Market Facilitation Program, Food Purchase and Distribution Program, and the Federal Trade Promotion Program. Currently, the American pecan industry has a 47% Chinese tariff in place.

Specifics of the programs are still being finalized. Additionally, USDA will determine how the commodities will be assisted and how much for each sector.

On a side note, those wishing to become part of the Commodity Procurement Program may sign up through the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. This program provides an opportunity for the industry to sign up as a vendor and then, through a competitive process, provide an opportunity to sell products to the USDA. For more information or to view the schedule of webinars that outline the program, please go to the Commodity Procurement webpage at:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/commodity-procurement>

or contact jeffrey.davis4@ams.usda.gov.

The APC will continue to monitor this issue as it is prepared for announcement.

APC ATTENDS ARIZONA MEETING

On August 23 – 24, 2018, the American Pecan Council attended the Arizona Pecan Growers Annual Conference in Tuscon, AZ. During the Conference, the APC presented an update on several APC activities. These included updates on outreach to the industry, marketing activities, research, standards, statistics, and upcoming programs such as strategic planning. Other topics included cultural practices, pests and disease issues, and soil health.



APC Staff and USDA conduct first compliance review

FIRST USDA COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR APC COMPLETED

On July 30 – August 3, the American Pecan Council had its USDA compliance review. The review is a mandatory component of the Federal Marketing Order and reviews all aspects of the order including: internal controls, travel, anti-trust, handler visits and audits, and APC activities to name a few. For being an 18-month old organization, the APC fared well with its compliance. The APC will review several of the items outlined by USDA and make the necessary amendments to its current policies and procedures.

APC BEGINS COMPLIANCE HANDLER REVIEWS

The American Pecan Council has begun its annual handler reviews. As mandated under the Federal Marketing Order, it is required that the APC conduct handler reviews to ensure that the industry is properly reporting assessments and information required by the forms. The APC continues to assist the industry in understanding how to fill out the necessary information. All proprietary information is kept securely and cannot be shared with anyone. For information about forms, or how to fill out the forms properly, please contact Emma Garner at the Council office.

WELCOME ABOARD JEFF SMUTNY

The American Pecan Council (APC) is pleased to welcome Jeff Smutny as its new Director or Regulatory and

Marketing Affairs. Prior to accepting the new role at APC, Jeff served as Western Regional Director for USDA, which oversees several Federal Marketing Orders. Additionally, Jeff served as the Assistant Division Director in Washington DC for USDA and was a field specialist for Federal Marketing Orders. Jeff also served as Vice-President of Marketing with the California Tree Fruit Agreement, in which he lead both domestic and international marketing programs of over \$11 million. Jeff brings to APC an expertise in USDA compliance, marketing, and regulatory affairs. Please take a moment to welcome aboard Jeff Smutny.

COUNCIL SET TO MEET AUGUST 30, 2018

On August 30, 2018, the American Pecan Council (APC) will meet at the Hyatt Regency at the DFW Airport. Agenda items include: Industry Relations, Governance, Standardization, Research, and Marketing. The Council will focus on budgets for these areas for the 2018 – 2019 season. Additionally, the Council has put out a Request For Proposal (RFP) for strategic planning. For additional information, about the APC meeting, please contact the Council office.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have an opinion you wish to share, or want to comment, both good or bad, about APC activities? We want to hear from you. Go to our website and let us know. We have also set up an anonymous portion for those that wish to comment but not say who you are. Go to www.americanpecan.com.



AMERICAN PECAN
COUNCIL

American Pecan Council

3880 Hulen Street, Suite 105
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
PH: (817) 916-0020
FAX: (866) 232-0085

info@americanpecan.com
americanpecan.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APC Board of Directors Meeting
August 30, 2018

Georgia Pecan Field Day
September 6, 2018

Asia Fruit Logistica
September 5-7, 2018

National Pecan Shellers Association 2018
Annual Meeting
September 13-14, 2018

Alabama Pecan Growers Association Meeting
September 20, 2018

Tri Agri Farm Center Event
Oklahoma
September 25th, 2018

USDA
Ag Promotions Showcase
Washington, DC
September 26, 2018

Western Pecan Production Short Course
October 15–17, 2018

New Mexico Pecan Growers Meeting
November 2, 2018

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