



IN A NUTSHELL

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RESEARCH PROJECTS MOVING FORWARD

The American Pecan Council is conducting several research projects to assist in data collection, and health benefits for pecans. The following is a list of the projects currently being conducted:

Economic Benchmark Model & Study

The American Pecan Council approved Forecasting and Business Analytics, LLC to conduct an economic benchmark model and study. The purpose of the study is to develop an economic baseline model capable of analyzing the effects of changes in the US pecan markets and the consequences for US production, consumption, prices, and trade. This project is important to the industry as it will establish a repeatable model that may be used by the industry to assist in disasters, production changes, or any other issues that may impact the pecan industry.

Satellite Mapping

The American Pecan Council will be conducting a US Pecan acreage survey. Conducted by Land I.Q., the project will utilize satellite imaging to identify pecan trees. Instead of acreage surveys conducted by the industry, the use of modern technology will give the American Pecan industry a more detailed and accurate summary of acreage in the top eight states. Once the project is completed, other states may be added as there will be a model to identify trees both in the native and improved varieties. The project is set to begin in the west and move east. To date, 70% of California, Arizona, and New Mexico is complete, with work beginning in the central region. APC will update the industry as this project nears completion.

Quantifying Phosphite Residues in Pecan Kernels

Dr. Tim Brenneman, Department of Plant Pathology, UGA; Dr. Clive Bock, USDA-ARS, Byron, GA; and Dr. Charles Rohla, Noble Foundation, have been conducting an American Pecan Council study on phosphite residues in pecan kernels.

According to the research team's initial summary, phosphite fungicides have proven to be an important tool in the pecan industry. EPA considers this chemistry so safe they did not require residue data for crops like pecans. However, in recent years the European Union (EU) started requiring phosphite maximum residue levels (MRL's) for products they import, including pecans. Since data does not exist, these levels were set at an extremely low level (2.0 PPM). Limited testing of treated pecans indicates that virtually any usage will result in residues exceeding this level. Exports to the EU would face a problem with MRLs. However, since this project was initiated, the EU has approved a much higher MRL for pecans (500 PPM) as part of nut-crop group package with the other tree nuts (almond, pistachio and walnut). Initial results from this project show that the industry is well below these MRLs. Thanks to the APCs funding efforts and the work of the Dr. Brenneman, Dr. Bock, and Dr. Rohla, this specific pecan study shows that it was critical to establish a more realistic MRL for phosphites, while having data available to shoe specific pecan uses of the product. A final report will be available once the work is completed.

Health Nutrition Study

The American Pecan Council is funding studies specifically focused on health nutrition. Currently, several of the nut studies focused on health include pecans as part of a general nut category. However, it is important to develop specific pecan health studies that focus on the specific characteristics of the nut. These studies will assist in understanding the pecan health benefits in more detail, while assist in giving the pecan its own unique health benefit identity. APC will update the industry as these studies begin receiving data.

Pecan Shelf Life Study

The American Pecan Council is funding a pecan shelf life study for handling practices of pecans. The objective of this study is to determine the best storage practices for shelled halves and in-shell raw pecans by conducting a shelf-life

study using rancidity development, moisture changes, physical changes and sensory evaluations while the product is stored at different storage conditions in a variety of packaging types. As the results are collected, it will assist the industry in educating consumers and buyers on the best handling practices of pecans. Pecan quality and consistency is key in order to ensure that customers enjoy their experience with pecans and continue to purchase our commodity. Results will be shared once the project is complete.

FARM BILL SIGNED – IMPORTANT TOOL ADDED TO APC

On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the Agriculture and Nutrition Act (Farm Bill). Although the \$867 billion package is for the next ten-years, there are several important requirements and funding contained within the package. For the American Pecan Council and the pecan industry, a provision for pecans was added into the entitled Section 8e(a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608e1(a)), adding pecans into this section of law.

Section 8e of the Act provides that when certain domestically produced commodities, including pecans, are regulated under a Federal marketing order, imports of that commodity must meet the same or comparable grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements. In short, it provides the industry with an equal rule across the industry.



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Enforceable quality standards are created and submitted to USDA by Federal Marketing Orders (FMO). Because the American Pecan Council is the industry's FMO, the APC will begin looking at standards for the industry. Once approved by APC, standards will be submitted to USDA for approval and eventual enforcement through inspection. The APC is tasked with creating the standards and assisting USDA in enforcement of the standards. Without a Federal Marketing Order, the Section 8(e) provision would not be enforceable. This is a big step and win for the industry in establishing standards that can be applied equally for all pecans.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Annual Texas Pecan Short Course
January 28 – 31, 2019
College Station, TX

Fruit Logestica
February 6-8, 2019
Berlin, Germany

North Carolina Pecan Growers Association
February 16-17, 2019
Clinton, NC

Southeastern Pecan Growers Annual Convention
February 22 – 23, 2019
Destin, FL

Western Pecan Growers Association
March 3 – 5, 2019
Las Cruces, New Mexico

National Pecan Shellers Association Mid-Winter
March 13 – 14, 2019
Atlanta, GA

Georgia Pecan Growers Annual Conference & Trade Show
March 25 – 27, 2019
TBD, GA

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