

California Apple Commission Newsletter



New Robotic Harvester for Apples

The USDA ARS, led by Renfu Lu, is pioneering robotic apple harvesting through his NP306 project, titled "Automated Technologies for Harvesting and Quality Evaluation of Fruits and Vegetables." The ARS will hold three more field demonstrations to showcase this technology. They are committed to advancing mechanization and automation research for apples and encourage your involvement in these demonstrations and collaboration with Renfu Lu in Michigan. To learn more, you can read the articles: [Watch robotic apple picker use suction arms and AI to harvest Michigan orchard](#) and [Meet the robot that could one day harvest Michigan's apple orchards](#), as well as check out the [attached flyer](#).

USAEC Update

The United States Apple Export Council (USAEC) is conducting weekly store audits in both the Canadian and Mexican markets to provide shippers with 'on the ground' information so the industry can make real time business decisions. Reports include information on pricing, brands, and ad tracking in different regions of each market. If you are not receiving these reports, please email Elise Oliver eoliver@calapple.org The USAEC also recently attended the Asia Fruit Logistica tradeshow in Hong Kong. This tradeshow allows the USAEC to meet with retailers, food processors, and distributors on behalf of the industry. Please reach out to Elise Oliver if you would like to receive all trade leads.

U.S. Apple Outlook Conference

In August, the CAC staff traveled to Chicago, IL to attend the annual U.S. Apple Outlook Conference meeting. The conference was attended by leaders from every facet of the apple industry, including production, packaging, processing, sales, marketing, and new product development. In addition, the conference was attended by a diverse range of speakers who covered topics ranging from inflation, retail market trends, transportation and logistics challenges, etc. During the US Apple Outlook Conference, CAC Staff was able to meet with Walmart Sourcing Manager, Carrie Mack, to discuss important issues facing the apple industry.

2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Research Update

At the annual CAC Board of Directors Meeting held on June 25, 2024, the Board approved the following research project for the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

Researcher	Project	Amount
Dr. Jim Adaskaveg	Evaluation of new biological controls and natural products for management of fire blight caused by <i>Erwinia amylovora</i> and postharvest decays of apple	\$22,400

This research project is a continuation of prior research from the previous fiscal year. If you would like a copy of the 2023-2024 Final Report, please access the password protected 'Research' section of the website [here](#). Type in the password, Calapple22. If you have any questions, please email Elise Oliver at eoliver@calapple.org

In addition to the approved research project, CAC staff was instructed to investigate PGRs or cell division to assist in developing larger size Gala apples, development of a sweet green apple to break up the color block in the grocery stores, and finally a UV light technology used in orchards to help trees naturally fight off pests and disease by producing salicylic acid.

2024 Legislative/Regulatory Update

Please see an [update here](#), provided by Kahn, Soares & Conway. This update details relevant Assembly and Senate bills that were introduced during the 2023-2024 California Legislative Session. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.



Halloween Caramel Apples

- 1/2 cup butter look for the Real CA Milk
- 2 cups packed brown sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- dash of salt
- 1 14 ounce can sweetened condensed milk look for the Real CA Milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 12 crisp California apples washed and dried
- 12 thick cookie/treat sticks

For the full recipe visit:

<https://californiagrown.org/recipes/caramel-apples-for-halloween/>

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