



Pepper News

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California Pepper Mid-Year Report

Chairman, California Pepper Commission
Glen Fischer, Saticoy Foods

Each year the California Pepper Commission is involved with activities that support the California pepper industry. Although a majority of the focus has been on research, the Commission has expanded its attention to other industry issues and is always looking for more.

Like most specialty crops peppers are not insurable under the Federal Crop Insurance program. Last year Western Growers approached the Pepper Commission on the possibility of pursuing crop insurance for California peppers. With crop insurance provided for other commodities and types of peppers in other states the transition to crop insurance in California peppers is a natural progression.

Working with Western Growers and the economic consulting firm, Watts and Associates the Commission began seeking acreage, production and sales data from producers and handlers. After a few months of collecting data, Watts and Associates are in the process of compiling the information into a report. Once completed, this report will be submitted for consideration of crop insurance on California peppers this year.

Crop insurance will provide producers financial security against certain dangers and may allow pepper growers the opportunity to compete with those commodities that already fall under the insurance program.

The Commission recently sent off its annual request for research proposals (RFP). This RFP is sent off to several UC and private researchers who have worked with or have shown interest in working with the Commission in the past. Research focused on insects, weeds and disease have been a major focus of the Commission. Labor or mechanical harvesting are of interest to the Commission along with water and fertilizer/nitrogen projects.

The California Pepper Improvement Foundation will evaluate the submitted proposals in early February and provide project comments and recommendations to the Commission who will meet later in the month. Project reports are also submitted prior to the Commission meeting in order to give members the opportunity to review the results to funded projects. These reports can be found on the Commission website www.calpeppers.com. Summaries of the research are also provided in the spring Newsletter.

The Commission continues to support the Special Local Need 24C on Chateau. Chateau is available to growers for a pre-transplanting application for weed control in the furrow bed. The label can be found on the Valent website www.valent.com. Dual Magnum

is also available as a 24C label on the Syngenta website www.farmassist.com.

As members of the California Specialty Crops Council the Commission participates in activities that educate regulators of crop production and crop management practices. Events such as the Crop Tour and MRL workshop are examples of these activities. The annual crop tour is scheduled for July 20-23 and MRL workshop for June 3-4 in San Francisco. For more information you can visit the CSCC website at www.specialtycrops.org.

The Alliance for Food and Farming is a non-profit organization supported by approximately 50 agricultural associations. The Pepper Commission agreed to support the AFF earlier this year. The AFF focuses on educating the general consumer on agricultural issues that may impact consumer confidence such as pesticide residues and microbial food borne illnesses. With the amount of information available to the public the AFF communicates with the media and consumer reliable, credible and understandable information. The website www.saferuitsandveggies.com is one example the AFF created to help educate consumers who may have concerns of pesticide residues.

The Commission and staff are always available to answer questions or assist in any way they can. Nathan Sano (nathan@tabcomp.com) is the Board Manager, and Kim Sakamoto (kim@tabcomp.com) is the Assistant Manager, and they can be contacted via email or at 559/591-3925.

Financial Report – December 31, 2014

The accompanying Financial Report reflects Commission finance activity as of December 31, 2014. With 2 months left in the fiscal year several accounts will continue to experience finance activity.

The Commission budgeted on the basis of receiving income from the equivalent of 380,000 tons of fresh

peppers, which would bring in \$114,000 at the \$.30 per ton rate. While the surplus carry-over might seem large, the Commission has chosen to keep a substantial reserve to prevent the possibility of needing to fund a project without having the money available.

The Commission's books are audited annually by an independent Certified Public Accountancy firm, and any pepper industry member wanting a copy of said audit may apply to the Commission office.

California Pepper Commission

Financial Report

Fiscal Year Ending: April 28, 2015

Reporting Date: December 31, 2015

<i>Account Name</i>	<i>Amount</i>
INCOME	
Carry-over from 2013-14	\$192,960
Assessment Income, 2014-15	128,621
Assessments Prior	1,524
Interest Income	<u>612</u>
Income/Carryover	\$323,717
EXPENDITURES	
Management Services	\$30,150
Audits	2,718
Office Supplies	404
Telephone	411
Postage	344
Reports & Publications	0
Subscriptions	2,000
Travel & Mileage	14
Meetings	276
Insurance	785
Website	1,650
Marketing Branch, CDFA	9,337
Market Enforcement Branch	0
California Specialty Crops Council	5,000
Production Research	42,300
Chemical Research	<u>3,375</u>
Total Expenditures	\$98,764
Net Income	\$31,993
Cash-Balance 12/31/14	<u>224,954</u>