

August 17, 2012

## **CRMB Weekly Update**



**Raisin Industry News and the work of the California Raisin Marketing Board, by Gary Schulz, President and General Manager**

### **Raisin Industry Statistics**

For Industry Statistics, such as Deliveries to Handlers, Shipments, etc. please go to the RAC website: [www.raisins.org](http://www.raisins.org)

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Monday, September 10, 6:30 p.m., Asian Bakery Winners' Study Tour Dinner, San Joaquin Country Club

### **Trial in Recess**

*August dates postponed*

Judge Raymond Cadei in Sacramento County Superior Court has begun hearing the cases brought against the CDFA/CRMB by plaintiffs Lion Bros., etc., and Boghosian Raisin Packing Company, Inc. et al; and defendant and cross-complainant Raisin Valley Farms, LLC. The trial began on April 2 and is now in recess.

Due to circumstances beyond their control, Plaintiffs are unable to go forward with the trial on the scheduled date of August 13, 2012, and have requested that the trial be continued. The Court granted the request and scheduled a Case Management Conference for August 20, 2012. The continued trial date will be set at that hearing.

**Fresno Area Weather Forecast may be found at:**  
<http://www.weather.com/weather/tenday/93710>

### **Central Valley Vineyards Move Toward Harvest**

*From the Grape Line, August 15, 2012*

At the beginning of August, raisin grapes in PCA Sara Savary's Thompson seedless and Selma Pete vineyards in the Fowler area of Fresno County were past veraison. "Now we're waiting for the sugar to come up," she says.

The start of veraison this year was more normal than in the recent past. "The crop has been later the last few years, so it's hard to tell just what is average," she says.

Savary's clients include raisin, table and wine grape growers in the Fresno-Tulare areas of the San Joaquin Valley. She's been seeing a little lighter crop load across all types of grapes this season.

"Berries are sizing well and clusters are about average in size, but there just aren't as many clusters as we usually see," she says. "The crop size won't be really low, but it will be off from last year."

Growers have already started cutting Selma Pete canes to be ready for machine harvest by the end of the month. Her Thompson growers could begin putting grapes on trays the last week of August, compared to the more typical start around Labor Day.

Insect pressures in her raisin vineyards have been low. “We had a few outbreaks of vine mealybug on some end vines next to roads, which get more heat,” Savary says. “But, for the most part, the sprays worked in controlling them.”

Diseases haven’t been a concern this year, either. “Even bunch rot hasn’t been much of a problem on our varieties of table grapes that are prone to diseases like Scarlet Royal,” Savary says. “We had some cracks on Fantasy grapes, but not as bad as some years.”

Her Selma Pete growers spray their vines about a week before cutting canes to suppress larvae of raisin moths, which are attracted to hanging clusters as grapes dry and continue picking up sugar.

Her Thompson Seedless growers are finishing their last irrigation as they start to get ready for harvest. Next, they will disk rows before putting up terraces to prepare rows for the grape trays.

“We haven’t had a lot of rain this year to cause a lot of disease problems,” Savary says. “The surprise this year is how quiet the season has been for pest control — and not just in grapes, but across the board, including tomatoes and cotton. That has been nice.”

### **As Released by NASS and published by The Food Institute:**

The California raisin-type variety grape forecast is 1,900 million tons, down 13.4% from the 2011 final production. Based on the objective measurement survey, bunches per vine totaled 29.1 compared with 38.7 recorded in 2011. Acreage of bearing age is 205,000. The 2012 California raisin-type grape crop is shaping up to be the smallest crop since 2006. [Click here](#) for the USDA Report.

### **The Big Fresno Fair, October 3-14**

The Baked with Raisins and Raisin Pie Recipe Contest categories of the Big Fresno Fair will once again be sponsored by the CRMB. The deadline to submit recipes is September 8, 2012 (online entries must be submitted by September 10, 2012). To download the entry form [click here](#) or contact the Fresno Fair at (559) 650-FAIR. The Grand Prize is a KitchenAid mixer and a \$200 gift certificate. Prizes will also be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places.

### **Taste of California Trade Show and Conference**

November 5-7, Oakland, CA

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### **Baker, Peterson & Franklin Ag Business Award**

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual BP&F Ag Business Award will be announced at a luncheon at Tornino's on Wednesday, November 14 along with the Fresno Chamber of Commerce's Agriculturist of the Year.

Nomination forms for the ag business award are due by Friday, September 14 and may be obtained by emailing this office:  
[gary@raisins.org](mailto:gary@raisins.org)

Past winners include Allied Grape Growers, Fresno Equipment Co., Errotaberre Ranches, Harris Farms, Borba Farms, National Raisin Co., Ballantine Produce Co., Woolf Enterprises, Producers Dairy Foods, P-R Farms, J & L Vineyards, Fowler Packing Co., Joseph Gallo Farms, Wawona Frozen Foods, Wilbur-Ellis Western Division and Zacky Farms.

### **UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS**

#### **Ag Roundtable**

Friday, August 31, 7 a.m., Marie Callendar's, Cedar and Shaw in Fresno

### **Asian Bakery Winners' Study Tour Dinner**

Monday, September 10, 6:30 p.m., San Joaquin Country Club

### **California Raisins at the Big Fresno Fair 2012**

October 3-14, 2012 (Home Arts Building)

### **Taste of California Trade Show and Conference**

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### **2012 Grape, Raisin and Nut Expo**

Wednesday, November 7, Big Fresno Fairgrounds, sponsored by American Vineyard Magazine. For more information, go to [www.americanvineyardmagazine.com/cvgrexpo.html](http://www.americanvineyardmagazine.com/cvgrexpo.html)

### **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Agribusiness Management Conference**

Wednesday, November 7, Radisson Hotel Conference Center.  
Sponsored by the Center for Agricultural Business, CSU-Fresno

### **Baker, Peterson & Franklin/Fresno Chamber Ag Awards Luncheon**

Wednesday, November 14, Tornino's

## **Fresno Food Expo**

Thursday, March 14, Fresno Convention Center. For more information, go to <http://www.fresnofoodexpo.com>

## **Have a Great Weekend!**

**Gary Schulz**, President and General Manager

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