



CAC growers meet with federal and state regulatory officials.

Commission Partners with CCQC, Hosts Regulatory Tour

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In May, the California Avocado Commission (CAC) joined with the California Citrus Quality Council (CCQC) in conducting a four-day tour of California citrus production areas along with an avocado grove. Representatives included staff from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) along with the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA). The goal of such a tour is to establish and/or improve relations with those officials who are tasked with creating and enforcing regulations that impact farming.

The first day was capped off with a tour of an avocado grove and dinner. In addition to the 30 agency personnel, a dozen avocado farmers participated in the grove tour and dinner, including many Commission Board members and alternates. This allowed for extensive interaction between the growers and the participants, the majority of whom had never set foot in an avocado grove.

"This tour provided a great opportunity for us to interact with the regulatory side of agriculture and show them our problems and burdens," said Rick Shade, Commission chairman. "It also helps us understand what they have to deal with on their [regulatory] side as well," he said.



Dan Pinkerton explains the challenges of farming with increasing regulations.

By getting them out of their Washington, D.C., and Sacramento offices and into the fields, it provides a valuable understanding of production agriculture and the challenges farmers face. It allows them to interact with real life farmers and see

what tremendous care they take as environmental stewards. As a bonus, the farmers who participated realized these folks are people too and are generally just trying to do their job.

Discussions covered issues like the Commission's efforts to gain trade access to China and the burden of reporting the same information to multiple agencies. Although such exchanges don't necessarily guarantee a better outcome for farming, and the night didn't end with everyone singing kumbaya, it's always a positive when farmers and regulatory personnel can spend some friendly time together. If an issue comes down the pike these people will now hopefully pause and ask themselves, "How is this going to impact those great California avocado farmers, and is it necessary?" 🥑



CAC Chairman Rick Shade talks with EPA official.