Olive Oil Commission of California Newsletter

ISSUE #6

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025

(M. Borges at USADEC)

USADEC

In November, Staff member, Michelle Borges, attended the 2025 United States Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) Annual Workshop in Baltimore, MD. The three-day conference brought together Foreign Agricultural Services, specialists, and cooperators to discuss the growing development and opportunity for U.S. agriculture to expand into new markets. Educational workshop sessions covered topics such as trade, finance, FAS program, compliance updates, and a Farm Bill update. During the conference, USDA also announced a new funding opportunity: the America First Trade Promotion Program, a $285 million trade promotion initiative scheduled to launch in fiscal year 2026. Staff will continue to explore new opportunities like this to expand our promotional efforts and highlight California's olive oil industry.

Fresno State Agribusiness Day

The Fresno State Agribusiness event provided an excellent opportunity for industry leaders, students, and faculty to connect and discuss emerging trends in California agriculture. The sessions highlighted opportunities and invocation as we navigate the future, and managing trade challenges as well the importance of collaboration across agricultural commodities.

California Farm Bureau Annual Conference

At the 2025 Annual Meeting and Young Farmers and Ranchers State Conference in Anaheim, CA, staff member Michelle Borges attended to be part of an event where farmers, ranchers, and agricultural leaders are brought together to exchange ideas and deepen connections. With the conference theme of “Strong Roots, Bright Future,” the focus was to celebrate the California agriculture industry that was built on resilience and innovation. Through trade and policy workshops to discussions on youth-based agricultural education, Michelle gained new tools and ideas to bring back to the olive oil industry.

(M. Borges at California Farm Bureau Annual Conference)

IFPA Global Produce Show

Staff traveled to the International Fresh Produce Association Global Produce and Floral Show on behalf of the Olive Oil Commission of California. While attending, staff met with board members participating through an exhibitor booth and engaged directly with key industry stakeholders. The show provided valuable insight into the olive oil market, including current trends, marketing strategies, and perspectives from the international produce industry, with company representatives speaking on global market dynamics. Staff also participated in discussions on agricultural technology, sustainable packaging, and marketing innovations, and attended IFPA sessions providing updates on governmental and policy developments impacting the industry.

Olive Oil Tour

OOCC staff toured the Enzo Olive Oil Mill to learn more about the production of California extra-virgin olive oil. Experiencing the milling process firsthand, while asking questions along the way, allowed Staff to gain a deeper understanding of olive oil production. Thank you to the Enzo Olive Oil team for hosting this informative tour. In 2026, OOCC staff hopes to visit additional mills represented by the OOCC.

(E. Cranmer, M. Borges, and K.Van Unen at Enzo Olive Oil)

(M. Borges, E. Cranmer, and M. McDonnell at IFPA)

Olive Oil Ring Test Update

The Olive Oil Commission of California is providing an update on the 2025–2026 OOCC Ring Test, which included nine participating laboratories using official, secondary, or both testing methods across three rounds of analysis. Testing was conducted between September and November and covered wet fat ranges from 4 to 25 percent, with all samples prepared by California Olive Ranch passing homogeneity testing. UC Davis is working with a statistician to analyze the data, including comparisons of participant performance, testing methods, and sample preparation approaches across wet fat, dry fat, and moisture parameters. The final report is tentatively targeted for completion by the end of February 2026 and will be posted on the OOCC website and distributed to the Board of Directors.

Olive Oil Annual Sampling Program

The Olive Oil Commission of California has initiated the Annual Sampling Program with the release of the Preliminary Form A, which has been distributed to all handlers and was due back to the Commission by December 31. The final Form A and Form B tutorial videos will be released on February 1 and posted on the OOCC website, accompanied by a reminder notice to participants. CDFA sampling is scheduled to begin January 15, with final Form A and Form B submissions due February 28. The final Annual Sampling Program Report and results are expected to be completed by May 15. If you have any questions please reach out to Ecranmer@calapple.org.

Olive Oil Conference Registration

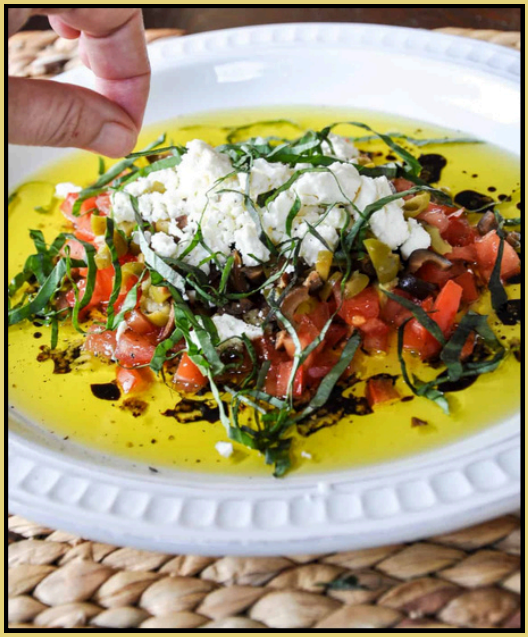
The Olive Oil Conference 2026 will take place March 18–20th at the Hilton Stockton. Day one will kick off with a mill and orchard bus tour followed by a welcome cocktail reception, leading into two days of engaging speakers, panels, and even a sweet ice cream treat topped with extra virgin olive oil 😉.

Registration is now open for members. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mary McDonnell at mmcdonnell@oliveoilcommission.org

Chunky Olive Oil Dip

Simple, fresh, and full of flavor! This Chunky Olive Oil Dip from CA GROWN is the perfect appetizer for entertaining. Made with flavorful ingredients and California olive oil, it's a delicious addition to any gathering.

For full recipe and instructions visit CA Grown



📸 & Recipe: California Grown

(E. Cranmer and M. McDonnell at Fresno State Ag Tech Day)

Fresno State Ag Tech Day

Staff attended Ag Tech Day at California State University, Fresno, on behalf of the Olive Oil Commission of California. The event included visits to three field sites showcasing innovations in Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation, center pivot irrigation systems and efficiency, and the use of sprayer drones in agricultural operations.

Participation provided an opportunity to engage locally with emerging agricultural technologies while staying informed on regulatory and policy considerations affecting the industry. The event also supported collegiate agriculture and strengthened connections between the Olive Oil Commission, academic institutions, and industry partners.

Important Dates!

December 31 – Preliminary Form A due
January 15 – CDFA sampling begins
February 28 – Final Form A & Form B due
May 15 – Final Annual Sampling Program Report & Results released

Olive Oil Commission of California
2565 Alluvial Ave. Ste. 152
Clovis, CA 93611
www.oliveoilcommission.org
P: 559.225.3000