Olive Oil Commission of California Newsletter

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2025/2026 OOCC Ring Test Report Completed

The final report for the 2025/2026 Ring Test of Fat and Moisture Content in Olives — A Multi-Laboratory Proficiency Test has been completed.

The annual Ring Test plays an important role in maintaining accuracy and consistency in the measurement of olive fat and moisture content throughout California's olive industry. These measurements are critical to both growers and processors. Growers are compensated largely based on the fat and moisture content of olives delivered during the milling season, while processors rely on this information to evaluate harvest timing, oil extraction efficiency, and overall oil quality. Because different growers, processors, and laboratories may use varying instruments and testing methods, the Ring Test serves as an important validation tool to assess the consistency and reliability of results across participating facilities. By promoting standardized measurement practices, the program helps ensure confidence and transparency in the data used throughout the industry.

Mills that successfully meet the program's standards and remain in good standing will be recognized on the OOCC website. You can find the OOCC Ring Test webpage **here.**

Ag Day at the Capitol

In honor of California Agriculture Day, the Olive Oil Commission of California participated with California Grown at Ag Day at the Capitol on April 22, 2026. This annual celebration brings together farmers, ranchers, and agricultural leaders to showcase why California remains the nation's leading agricultural state. In addition, California Grown is proud to recognize 2026 as the United Nations' International Year of the Woman Farmer.

OOCC Board of Directors Election Results Announced

The Olive Oil Commission of California Board of Directors elections have officially concluded. The newly elected members were seated at the June 23, 2026, Board of Directors meeting and began serving their three-year terms.

At the June 23 Board meeting, candidates interested in serving in the Commission's two vacant Public Member positions were presented and given an opportunity to introduce themselves and share their interest in serving. Following the candidate presentations, the Board of Directors voted to fill the two Public Member positions. The individuals elected to serve in these positions are listed below.

Election Results:

District	Position	Elected Member
1	Producer	Jackie Kennedy
1	Producer Alternate	Adam Englehardt
2	Producer	Matt Lohse
2	Producer Alternate	Mikayla Gnoss
3	Producer	Frank Olagaray
3	Producer Alternate	George Borba
1	Handler	Mary Mori
	Public Member	Clint Smith
	Public Member	Bruce Golino

OOCC Mandatory Testing Program

The Olive Oil Commission of California's 2025/2026 Mandatory Testing Program has officially concluded. The annual sampling program requires all OOCC members producing more than 5,000 gallons to participate in a random sampling of their oil. Samples are submitted for quality and sensory analysis, then compared with each member's internal testing results and evaluated by UC Davis. The 2025/2026 Evaluation of Mandatory Testing Review has been uploaded to the OOCC website. The member in good standing list can be found on the webpage **here**. Highlights from this year's results can be seen below:

IFPA Washington Conference

Staff attended the annual IFPA Washington Conference in Washington DC June 8-10, 2026. Alongside IFPA, staff advocated on issues that directly impact the olive oil industry, such as labor, trade, nutrition and consumption, food safety, the U.S. Farm Bill, and the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The Staff went to Capitol Hill to meet with congressional members and staff to conduct in-depth conversations regarding IFPA's priorities.

The grade determination is based on all lots reported by handlers, not just the lots spot-checked by OOCC

Season	Total Samples	Extra Virgin	Virgin	Crude	Undeterminable
2020/21	151	75% (114)	7% (10)	5% (7)	13% (20)
2021/22	217	88% (190)	2% (4)	2% (5)	8% (18)
2022/23	193	82% (159)	7% (13)	4% (7)	7% (14)
2023/24	248	87% (215)	2% (5)	0% (0)	11% (28)
2024/25	218	90% (197)	4.6% (10)	1.4% (3)	11% (28)
2025/26	197	92% (182)	3% (6)	0.5% (1)	11% (28)

Season	Lots Tested by Both	Lots in Agreement	Agreement Rate
2020/21	55	50	91%
2021/22	65	62	95%
2022/23	49	43	88%
2023/24	52	47	90%
2024/25	57	51	89%
2025/26	60	56	93%

OOCC Important Update for Toll Processors and Custom Millers

Effective January 1, 2026, the Olive Oil Commission of California expanded the definition of a handler to include toll processors and custom millers—those who process olives into olive oil on behalf of producers.

As a result, beginning with the upcoming crop year, toll processors will be subject to applicable OOCC reporting and assessment requirements. To prepare for implementation, the OOCC has distributed a Toll Processing Declaration Form to identify entities engaged in toll processing and to better understand the volume of olive oil produced through these arrangements.

If you are a toll processor and did not receive the declaration form, or if you are aware of a toll processor that should be included in OOCC communications, please contact the Commission. Ensuring all affected entities are identified will help facilitate a smooth transition to the new requirements.

Association of Nutrition and Foodservice Professionals Conference

Staff attended the Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals Annual Conference & Expo in Orlando, Florida, to learn about the latest trends in the foodservice industry. Conference sessions focused on leadership, workplace culture, foodservice operations, technology, nutrition, food safety, and plant-forward dining.

The event also provided valuable opportunities to connect with foodservice professionals and better understand their needs. These insights will help guide future outreach efforts and identify new opportunities for California olive oil.

Save the Date for the 2027 Conference

The California olive oil industry's premier event is returning! We are excited to announce that the Third Annual Olive Oil Conference will be held March 17–19, 2027, at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. Join growers, millers, researchers, industry partners, and olive oil professionals from across the state for three days of education, networking, and industry collaboration. While additional details are still being finalized, we would like to provide an early opportunity to mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Sponsorship opportunities will be announced in the coming months. If you would like to be added to our sponsorship interest list and receive advance notification when opportunities become available, please contact our office.

We look forward to bringing the olive oil community together once again and hope to see you in Clovis in 2027!

MRL Harmonization Workshop

Staff attended the 2026 MRL Harmonization Workshop in May in Sacramento, CA. The conference focused on how MRLs affect international trade in specialty crops and what industry stakeholders can do to reduce trade barriers caused by differing pesticide residue regulations around the world. The workshop brought together growers, exporters, registrants, and commodity groups to discuss global changes in pesticide residue regulations, market access challenges, emerging trade risks, and practical strategies to avoid MRL-related shipment rejections.

SB 54 / SB 343

On March 4, 2026, the OOCC Board of Directors held a special meeting to consider and vote on joining litigation related to California's SB 54 requirements, which mandate that all single-use packaging be recyclable or compostable by 2032. SB 54 creates an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program that requires producers of single-use packaged products sold in California to finance and comply with statewide recycling and plastic-reduction goals. Under the program, producers must register within 30 days of the regulations becoming effective on May 1, 2026. Registration and data reporting were due by June 1, 2026, and producer fees will be assessed shortly thereafter. The Olive Oil Commission of California encourages all producers to register with the CCA to avoid possible fees in the coming months.

Canadian Produce Marketing Association and SIAL Tradeshow

By attending both tradeshows, the California Olive Oil Commission gained a greater understanding of the retail in Toronto and Montreal, Canada through the market tours and discussions at the CPMA and SIAL tradeshows. Throughout the trip, Staff discussed the market challenges and opportunities facing the California Olive Oil industry in Canada. Staff strengthened valuable connections with USDA staff, local trade members, and other U.S. cooperatives.

Fresno State USDA Research Symposium

Staff attended the Fresno State USDA Research Symposium in April to learn more about collaborative research efforts between USDA-ARS Parlier and Fresno State, including projects funded by the Commission. The event highlighted ongoing agricultural research focused on addressing industry challenges, improving production practices, and developing innovative solutions to support California agriculture. Throughout the symposium, staff had the opportunity to attend research presentations, review poster sessions, and engage in discussions with researchers, faculty, students, and industry stakeholders. The event also provided an opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships, learn about emerging research priorities, and explore potential opportunities for future collaboration. Participation in events like this helps the Commission stay informed on current research developments and ensure funded projects continue to address the needs of California growers.

Acreage Mapping

Land IQ recently completed a statewide olive acreage mapping project for OOCC, distinguishing olives grown for oil from those grown as table olives. As of September 30, 2024, California had an estimated 57,765 total olive acres, including 39,079 acres for oil and 18,686 acres for table olives. The report shows olive acreage has increased by about 20% since 2018, with most new plantings focused on oil production. Please visit the detailed document here.

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