Berry, Lydia

From: MBarr5@aol.com%inter2 [MBarr5@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2002 11:32 AM
To: Berry, Lydia
Subject: Apple Concentrate

I am an apple grower in Yakima, Wa. We have struggled for the last 4 years with no profit. It looks like 2001 crop may actually bring in more than the costs. This is only because of the price received for our fruit. The price floor (or the cheapest that the fruit is sold for) is totally dependent on the juice market. If cheap juice concentrate is allowed into this country for under what the cost of production we will not survive. We must have a $80 per ton juice market. The juice concentrate buyers are only competing against one another. If we are not able to divert our poor grade fruit to juice market we are at $20 to $40 per ton for juice. This price makes the packers look for selling that poor grade fruit to the consumer for $5-$8 per packed box (which is less than the cost of production), but enough for the packer to package and sell it with nothing going to the grower for his product.
Please consider that the cheap imports of juice concentrate can drive the American apple grower out of business.
One other aspect of this is we do not require adequate regulation on the apple product and processing of juice to meet the same standards we have in America. They are not required to use safe chemicals and fertilizers and processing.
Sincerely,
Mark Barrett
Yakima County Farm Bureau Pres.