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Growers Again Ask Government To Halt Unauthorized Apple Imports

by Carlos Navarro
Category/Department: General
Published: Wednesday, March 17, 1993

Apple growers in Chihuahua and Coahuila states on March 2 renewed their appeal to the Agriculture Secretariat (Secretaria de Agricultura y Recursos Hidraulicos, SARH) to block unauthorized imports of US and Chilean apples. The apple growers took their complaint directly to Agriculture Secretary Carlos Hank Gonzalez, charging that both SARH and the Finance Secretariat (Secretaria de Hacienda y Credito Publico, SHCP) have been slow to respond to similar pleas, lodged back in December 1992. According to Abelardo Aguilar Valdes, president of the Coahuila Apple Producers Union (Union de Productores de Manzana Coahuila), the government failed to prevent the unauthorized entry of at least 600,000 crates of apples in 1992. In addition, he said importers avoided paying the appropriate duties by underreporting the value on another two million crates, costing the government about 12.5 billion old pesos (US$4.03 million). (Source: La Jornada, 03/04/93)

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