

# THE PRODUCE NEWS

COVERING FRESH PRODUCE AROUND THE GLOBE SINCE 1897

Week of March 9, 2009

## U.S. legislator speaks out on need for California water infrastructure

BY RAND GREEN

"California's biggest industry is still agriculture, and the beating that it has taken by burdensome regulations, high taxes, and water and electricity shortages has been staggering," Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA) told *The Produce News* during an exclusive interview Feb. 25.

California's water crisis is "very real" and it poses "an imminent threat to Central Valley farming," he said, alluding to cutbacks in state and federal

water allocations that will take hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland out of production this year.

Much of that land has been used for producing fruits, vegetables, nuts and other specialty crops. "We've got to get our priorities straight again and get back to the process of actually building surface water storage facilities — to put it more simply, dams." And that "all comes down to a question of political will."

Rep. McClintock, who served for

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Rep. Tom McClintock

## Colombian greenhouse employs advanced methods

BY TAD THOMPSON

ANAPOIMA, COLOMBIA — Countless technical features make this an outstanding basil greenhouse, but it is the women hovering over the herb crop that makes a startling and lasting impression.

An herb farm here producing in partnership with Infinite Herbs, based in Miami and Everett, MA, utilizes customized technology that makes it difficult to call this a place that is truly unique in the world.

Dalmiro Rodriguez, operations manager of Infinite Herbs, who works from a Bogota, Colombia, office, designed the floating harvest beds and certain other features of this farm. The high-tech

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At a greenhouse in Anapoima, Colombia, a worker is suspended above a basil crop to harvest, while the adjacent hydroponic system is ready to produce a new crop. (Photo by Tad Thompson)

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## Safety bills to mandate new produce safety standards

level. It would require food importers to complete a foreign supplier food-safety plan and mandate new safety regulations on fresh fruits and vegetables

increase the frequency of inspections at all food facilities, give the FDA expanded access to records and testing results, and allow the FDA to recall dangerous

### INSIDE

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two bills intro-  
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