

Today is _____, _____ the _____. This is Ken Morgan's Northcoast Ag Report, our lead story is about _____ when we return

Trump Assigns Japan Trade Talks to Pence

President Donald Trump has assigned Vice President Mike Pence to lead economic dialogue with Japan following meetings with Japan's Prime Minister. Trump and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (Sheen-zoh-ah bay) made no decision regarding bilateral trade negotiations while meeting over the weekend in Florida. Vice President Pence will lead any trade talks with Japan, while Japan appointed its Deputy Prime Minister to lead talks with Pence. The talks will address fiscal and monetary policies, along with infrastructure and trade, according to Reuters. A top economist at Nikko (knee-coh) Securities in Tokyo said Pence "may be easier to work with" and "probably more logical" than Trump regarding trade policy negotiations. Trump has publicly opposed Japan, on both the campaign trail and in office, for its trade and economic policies.

- [Farmland Values Continue to Decline](#)

Farmland values are generally declining significantly in the nation's midsection, according to Federal Reserve Banks, however, Dan Bigelow, USDA analyst, saying recent declines in farmland values pale in comparison to the declines during the 1980's farm crisis. (Many farmers saw drops of 25% and more)

February 13, 2017

Contact: Pam Kan-Rice, (510) 206-3476, pam.kanrice@ucanr.edu.

New mobile app to track close encounters with coyotes

As urban coyote numbers rise, the animals are increasingly crossing paths with residents. There have been police reports of coyotes attacking pets and even people, but there has been no place to report casual coyote encounters. Now there is a new mobile app to help keep track of where those wily coyotes are coming into contact with people. Hikers and people walking their dogs can use [Coyote Cacher](#), created by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, to report coyote sightings.

"I'm so excited about this app because it will help us to collect better information on coyote conflict in California," said [Niamh Quinn](#), UC Cooperative Extension advisor, who studies human-wildlife interactions. "Coyote conflict appears to be particularly high in Southern California and it seems to be emerging in other areas. The information people

provide through Coyote Cacher will help inform government agencies, wildlife researchers, park managers and residents to make better coyote management decisions."

By reporting encounters with coyotes in their neighborhoods, residents can share information to help neighbors keep their pets and children safe.

"There is a coyote encounter map that will allow the public to keep track of what is happening in their areas," said Quinn, who is based in Orange County.

Individuals can use the app to check a map to see locations of coyote sightings. Pet owners may decide not to let their pets out at night unsupervised in areas where coyotes have been reported.

"The app allows users to sign up for email alerts," Quinn said. "These alerts – green, yellow and red – notify users when there is a coyote encounter reported in their zip code."

Green is the lowest alert level and will give alerts for all coyote encounters in the user's zip code, from sightings to a person being bitten. Yellow will not alert users about sightings, but will let them know about all levels of pet interactions, including pets being chased or attacked off-leash by coyotes, and red alerts. Red is the highest alert level and allows for users to be informed only about the more serious incidents, for example, a coyote attacking a pet on a leash or biting a person.

"This app will also allow me to gather baseline information on coyote activity and the success of community hazing," Quinn said.

Community hazing involves people shouting and waving their arms at coyotes and generally being obnoxious to make the nuisance animals afraid of humans.

"It would be great if everyone would do this when they see a coyote, but at the moment this is not really happening," Quinn said. "Also, coyotes in Southern California appear to take a lot of risks and come in close contact with humans so community hazing may not deter them."

More intense hazing, like shooting them with paintball guns, might be more effective techniques for government agencies to manage urban coyotes, she said.

To find out if any of these techniques work, the UC wildlife scientist would like to put collars on urban coyotes to study whether the animals move away from locations after hazing.

"We are seeking funding to collar coyotes to find out more about their activity and social structure and how they react to different types of management," Quinn said. "We would need to figure out if the effects of the hazing are long lasting, or if the coyotes just revert to 'bad behavior' when the hazing is stopped."

Although Quinn's research is focused on California, Coyote Cacher can be used anywhere in the United States. The website also offers information about urban coyotes.

Coyote Cacher can be used on a computer or on a mobile device at <http://ucanr.edu/CoyoteCacher>.

The Coyote Cacher app was designed by UC ANR's Informatics and Geographic Information Systems and funded by UC Cooperative Extension in Orange County.

UC Agriculture and Natural Resources researchers and educators draw on local expertise to conduct agricultural, environmental, economic, youth development and nutrition research that helps California thrive. Learn more at ucanr.edu.

MEDIA CONTACT: Niamh Quinn, UC Cooperative Extension human-wildlife conflicts advisor, (949) 653-1813, nmquinn@ucanr.edu.

WEEK ENDING: February 12, 2017

RELEASED: February 13, 2017

WEATHER

Another wet week across the State. Most days received widespread precipitation across a large portion of the State. Last week, the heaviest rains fell on the windward and southern slopes of the central/northern Sierras and northern mountains. Blue Canyon reported the largest precipitation of 14.16 inches. The northwestern mountains received four to six inches of rain, while the valley saw three to four inches across its northern half and one to two inches across its southern half. The immediate coast from San Francisco southward to Los Angeles received two to three inches. Despite warm temperatures, additional snow fell in the mountains through last week, the heaviest in the Tahoe region, where 12 to 18 inches fell. The northern Sierras saw eight to 12 inches across the northern mountains, with the Southern Sierras reporting three to six inches. Despite the additional snowfalls, warm temperatures resulted in an overall reduction of four to eight inches in snowpack.

Temperature highs were in the 30s to 50s in the mountains, 50s to 60s in the valley and along the coast, and 60s to 80s in the desert. The temperature lows were in the 20s to 40s in the mountains, 30s-50s in the desert, and 40s to 50s in the valley and along the coast.

FIELD CROPS

Growers continued to wait for fields to dry out sufficiently to resume planting winter grain and field crops. The planted grains and field crops continued to mature at an excellent rate, reaping the benefit from all the recent rains.

FRUIT CROPS

Orchards in the San Joaquin Valley where conditions permitted, allowing for some orchard pruning, disking, weed control and pre-bloom spraying. Pruning, tying, berm sanitation, and brush shredding started up again in the drier vineyards. Where field conditions permitted the removal of older orchards and vineyards continued in preparation for replanting with new varieties. The standing water in vineyards and orchards caused for concern the health of the trees and vines. Early varieties of **nectarines** and **peaches** began to bloom in Fresno County. Navel **orange** harvest continued as weather permitted. Second treatment spraying for citrus fungal diseases was drawing to a close. **Tangerines** continued to be harvested.

NUT CROPS

As field conditions permitted orchards continued to be pruned and brush. Some late dormant sprays were applied. **Almond** buds were swelling and a few early blossoms reported in the southern San Joaquin Valley.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Monterey County, frequent rain continued throughout the week. The rain was welcomed as it cleaned salts from the soil profile, but it slowed field activities. Very few fields were planted, but as the skies began to clear, work resumed on cole crops, **lettuces**, **celery**, and **spinach**. In Fresno County, the **carrot** harvest was ongoing when the weather permitted. Weed control was ongoing for **tomatoes**. **Garlic** and **onion** plantings had emerged and showed good growth. **Broccoli** was growing steadily. In Imperial County, harvest continued for broccoli, **cauliflower**, **Brussels sprouts**, and lettuce. Fields were planted with **melon** and **sweet corn** as weather permitted.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated pasture and rangeland continued to improve due to the winter's precipitation and warming temperatures. Range was reported to be in excellent to good condition. Sheep grazed idle fields and dormant alfalfa fields. Supplemental feeding of livestock was on the decline as range conditions improved. Bee hives were staged in preparation for the pending bloom season, though muddy conditions forced many hives to be left on drier ground outside almond orchards.

A PDF of the report is attached.

Cattlemen Commend Passage of Resolution to Repeal BLM's Planning 2.0 Rule

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the Public Lands Council (PLC) and CCA hail the passage by the U.S. House of Representatives of a resolution that would repeal the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Planning 2.0 Rule, calling it a "huge victory" for America's ranchers. If the U.S. Senate also quickly passes the resolution, it would go to the White House for President Trump's signature.

"For years, the Obama Administration ignored the concerns of ranchers and local officials and instead rammed through this massive regulatory overreach as they were being shown the door," said Ethan Lane, Executive Director of PLC and NCBA Federal Lands. "This is a huge victory for America's cattle producers and a sign that some common sense is finally being restored in Washington."

"Planning processes are critical to the ability of grazing permittees to operate in the West," Lane continued. "The final rule's shift away from multiple use, as well as its disregard for both local input and economic analysis, make it unworkable for the more than 18,000 ranchers operating on BLM-managed lands."

NCBA and PLC have long expressed concerns about BLM's Planning 2.0 Rule, which

would represent a wholesale shift in management focus at BLM by prioritizing "social and environmental change" over ensuring multiple use of public lands, and by eliminating stakeholder and local input into the planning process.

The Obama Administration finalized the BLM Planning 2.0 Rule in December. Under the Congressional Review Act, the U.S. House and Senate have up to 60 legislative days after a new rule becomes final to approve a joint resolution of disapproval, which will fully repeal the final rule if and when the resolution becomes law.

BLM and Forest Service Announce 2017 Grazing Fees

Last week the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service announced the federal grazing fee for 2017 will be \$1.87 per animal unit month (AUM) for cattle. This is a 24 cent decrease from the 2016 fee, which was \$2.11 per AUM.

The federal grazing fee is determined by a formula that includes a base fee of \$1.23 per AUM and fluctuates based on three factors: current private grazing land lease rates, beef cattle prices, and the cost of livestock production. This means that the grazing fee essentially increases and decreases based on market conditions. In addition, the fee cannot fall below \$1.35 per AUM but can also not be raised (or lowered) by more than 25 percent of the previous years' fee.

CDFA Secretary Karen Ross to Host Farm Bill Listening Sessions - Seeking Public Comments on California's Agriculture Priorities

California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross is holding several public forums across the state seeking input from farmers, ranchers and other stakeholders on priorities for the 2018 Farm Bill.

"The farm bill is as important to San Francisco and Los Angeles as it is to the Central Valley," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "This legislation ensures a robust farm safety net, promotes farming and ranching practices that are environmentally sound and provides important nutritional funding for our citizens. How our California Congressional delegation helps to shape the federal farm bill will result in positive investments to our communities, our health and agricultural economy."

The current farm bill, the Agricultural Act of 2014 will expire next year necessitating action by Congress. The farm bill provides an estimated \$489 billion in federal funding nationwide to support a variety of food and agricultural programs including crop insurance, conservation, nutrition and trade.

California Farm Bill Listening Sessions:

Tulare (World Ag Expo) - Thursday, Feb. 16

Noon-3 p.m.

International Agri-Center Heritage Complex (Theater)

4500 S. Laspina Street,

Tulare, CA 93274
Salinas - Wednesday, Feb. 22
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Monterey County Farm Bureau
1140 Abbott Street, Suite C.,
Salinas, CA 93901

Los Angeles - Thursday, Feb. 23
1-3 p.m.
Los Angeles Trade Technical College (Meeting Room: TBD)
400 West Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90015

The 2018 Farm Bill Listening Sessions are a public forum allowing individuals input on California's priorities for the upcoming farm bill. Provided comments will be used to help develop recommendations on the farm bill that will be shared with California's Congressional delegation and the leadership of the Senate and House agricultural committees.

Public comments can also be emailed to FarmBill@cdfa.ca.gov

SWRCB Releases Water Measurement Forms, Extends Deadlines

On Jan. 1, new regulations concerning the measurement, monitoring and reporting of water diversions took effect for the largest category of water diverters. The regulations, adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as required by SB 88, have now passed their effective deadline for those diverting 1,000 acre-feet or more of water annually (smaller diverters will be required to comply with the regulations by July 2017 or January 2018 depending on their size and type of diversions).

On Thursday, the SWRCB made available electronic forms by which diverters can request additional time, alternative compliance or a cooperative measurement method. The forms are available on the SWRCB's website [here](#).

The SWRCB has also extended the deadline for diverters of $\geq 1,000$ acre-feet annually to file requests for additional time, alternative compliance or measurement methods. For those diverting under a permit or license, the forms must be filed by April 1, 2017. For those diverting under another right and filing statements of diversion and use, the deadline for filing is July 1, 2017.

CCA encourages any diverter of more than 1,000 acre feet who has not yet installed a measuring device at their point of diversion to fill out an extension of time request (or other request) prior to the April 1 or July 1 deadlines in order to avoid noncompliance and fines levied by the SWRCB.

For more information, please contact Kirk Wilbur in the CCA office.

UC Davis Calls for Applicants for Assistant/Associate Specialist in Cooperative Extension for Beef Cattle Herd Health and Production

The University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, a statewide program with local delivery, in collaboration with the School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis, are seeking a full time Assistant/Associate Specialist in Cooperative Extension (100%) in the area of beef cattle herd health and production for California's extensive beef cattle industry that ranges from cow-calf and stocker operations in our foothill and coastal regions to large feedlots in southern and central California. The candidate will collaborate closely with colleagues in the School, across the University, and within the network of UC Cooperative Extension who work on the health and productivity of beef cattle, pre-harvest food safety and beef quality assurance, and adoption of sustainable livestock production practices. The successful candidate will be in residence at either UC Davis or the Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center, Tulare, CA.

See qualifications, responsibilities and application process [here](#).

UC Davis Calls for Applicants for Assistant/Associate Specialist in Cooperative Extension for Beef Cattle Herd Health and Production

The University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources is seeking a Cooperative Extension Advisor who will serve UCCE Placer-Nevada and Sutter-Yuba Counties with headquarters in Auburn, CA. Please help spread the word about this position that will focus on integrating livestock, natural resources, food systems and economics.

A minimum of a master's degree is required, though other advanced degrees are encouraged, in disciplines such as animal science, rangeland management or other closely related fields. Incumbent is required to become a Certified Rangeland Manager within five years of date of hire; see [here](#).

Excellent written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills are required. The ability to build partnerships and to work with multidisciplinary teams to address production and environmental challenges is required. Experience in applied research and extension is preferred.

SUBMIT BY date for full consideration is Monday March 13, 2017. It is position #AP16-20. Learn more [here](#).

Please forward the below web link for access to the full position announcement and required academic application form as well as the attached documents to possible interested parties such as graduate and/or doctoral degree candidates and holders as well as their academic mentors and your colleagues. Questions about this recruitment may be directed to Karen Ellsworth: Phone: 530 750-1284; kaellsworth@ucanr.edu

