

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

## **North American Livestock Production Contribution to Global Warming Less than Public Led to Believe**

As governments move to address global warming the contribution of agriculture, particularly livestock production to greenhouse gas emissions is increasingly being identified as one of the primary culprits. Dr. Frank Mitloehner, a Professor and Air Quality Specialist with the Department of Animal Science at the University of California Davis, says many countries are inefficient and resource hungry when it comes to livestock production so the contribution of their livestock industries to global warming skews the numbers.

### **Clip-Dr. Frank Mitloehner-University of California Davis:**

In the United States, to give you that example, the number one culprit of carbon emissions is the use of fossil fuel.

Energy production and use and transportation, these two sectors make up for more than 50 percent.

The livestock sector in the United States contributes to 4.2 percent of all greenhouse gasses.

But, in other countries of the world, that is not the case.

For example in some South American countries livestock contributes t half of their carbon footprint.

In some African countries livestock contributes to as much as 90 percent so it's not fair to use one global average, which is then completely distorting the contribution livestock have in North America or in South America or in Africa.

If you compare different regions throughout the world, what by far has the greatest impact on their footprints, is the efficiency under which they can be produced.

Dr. Mitloehner says, if you can increase efficiency you can decrease emissions.

As an example he points out the average milk cow in California produces 25 thousand pounds of milk per year, 20 times more than in India so, if you need 20 times more cows to produce the same amount of milk, the environmental impact is going to be 20 times greater.

# **Canada And U.S. Cattle And Hog Inventories Up From Last Year**

March 8, 2017 6:01am

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service has released its combined Canadian and American cattle, hog and sheep numbers for the start of 2017.

NASS says cattle inventories increased by 2 per cent from a year earlier to 106 million head.

It notes the amount of calving cows and heifers to be at 45.3 million head, which is also 2 per cent more.

The department reports the combined number of hogs and pigs on January 1st was 85.2 million head.

That's a gain of 3 per cent on last year and 5 per cent on the year before.

The number of farrowing sows over the last half of 2016 hit 7.34 million, which was 2 per cent more than in 2015.

The combined total of sheep to begin the year was at 6.13 million.

The service points out that's a decline of 2 per cent, which is also the same dip seen in the number of breeding ewes.