

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

- [Trump Administration Declares National Ag Day](#)

Ray Starling, President Trump's Special Assistant for Agriculture, reads the administration's declaration of National Ag Day, before a gathering of ag industry representatives in Washington DC.

WEEK ENDING: March 19, 2017

RELEASED: March 20, 2017

WEATHER

It was a warm week across the State, as most of the area was well entrenched into a dry pattern. Fog developed across the northern central valley early in the week which helped supply a bit of moisture. **Rainfall was limited to the northern third of the State late week. Rainfall amounts were very light along Interstate 80, gradually increasing to the north. The heaviest rains fell in the northern mountains, which received around a quarter inch of rain each day.** Warm temperatures last week resulted in the first week of significant snowmelt in the mountains. Despite that, **mountain snowpacks continued to be heavy with Lodgepole still reporting over seven feet of snow depth.**

Temperature highs were in the 30s to 70s in the mountains, 60s to 80s in the valley and along the coast, and 70s to 100 in the desert. The temperature lows were in the 10s to 40s in the mountains, 40s to 50s in the valley and along the coast, and 40s to the 60s in the desert.

FIELD CROPS

Winter forage crops were maturing well. Some growers were starting to harvest silage. **Alfalfa** was making good growth as a result of the warmer weather. Drier and warmer weather were ideal for the grains.

FRUIT CROPS

Field work in vineyards continued with pruning, tying, berm sanitation, and brush shredding. Some bud break has been observed in vineyards.

Cherries and late varieties of stone fruit continued to bloom. **Kiwifruit** were being packed and shipped to domestic and foreign markets. Some **persimmons** and **pomegranates** were leafing out. New orchards were being planted. The citrus harvest picked up with the improved weather. Late **Navel orange** harvest started in some areas. Navel oranges, Mandarins, Minneola **tangelos**, **lemons**, and late harvest **Finger limes** were being exported mostly to foreign markets. Star Ruby **grapefruit** harvest began, with most of the fruit being packed for the domestic market. Orange groves were being hedge-rowed and skirted. Growers were starting to net the seedless **tangerines** to prevent cross pollination by bees during the coming bloom. Pruning of **olives** continued.

NUT CROPS

Almond bloom was slowing down. Bee colonies continued to be moved into nut orchards for pollination. Almonds and **pistachios** were being exported. Some **walnut** orchards were blooming.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Tulare County, **squash** was being planted in hot tunnels. New fields were being prepared for spring planting. **Cucumbers** were being planted under hot caps. **Blueberries** were blooming. **Strawberry** fields continued to thrive. Previously planted **onions** continued to progress well. In Monterey County, strawberry production was picking up and harvest crews were working. A few **brassica** fields were being harvested as well. Flood waters were receding.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and dryland pasture quality continued to improve with all the recent rainfall. Condition was excellent due to continued rainfall and warmer weather. Some cattle ranchers have increased their herd size in order to take advantage of the improved forage conditions. Bees were active in almond and early stone fruit orchards.

- [More Pacific Storms Could Bring More California Flood Concerns](#)

Brad Rippey, USDA meteorologist, saying a series of Pacific storms over the next two weeks could renew flood concerns in California.