

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

- [Many Dairy Operators Reluctant To Go Organic](#)

Organic milk fetches considerably higher prices than conventional milk, but most dairy operators are reluctant to convert to organic

RELEASE IMMEDIATE

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FARM LEADER: CVP ANNOUNCEMENT SHOWS OPERATION OF WATER SYSTEM IS 'OUT OF WHACK'

After the federal Central Valley Project reported today (Wednesday) it expects to deliver only 65 percent of contract water supplies to its agricultural water contractors south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California Farm Bureau Federation President Paul Wenger said the announcement shows how operation of the state's water system remains in need of an overhaul.

"In the alternate universe of California water, we can have floods, full reservoirs and a huge snowpack and still not have full water supplies. It boggles the mind," Wenger said.

"Operation of our water system remains out of whack. We need to continue efforts to improve and expand the system," he said. "In Congress, passage of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act last year marked an important step in addressing the system's inadequacies. Congress must now follow through with measures such as Rep. David Valadao's Gaining Responsibility on Water Act, which would offer longer-term ability to store and move water."

Wenger said farmers and ranchers will also press Congress to modernize endangered-species laws, "to balance the goals of environmental restoration with the ability to provide the resources needed to grow food and farm products."

At the state level, he said, California must move as quickly as possible to invest money from the Proposition 1 water bond into storage projects that provide the state with more ability to store water in wet winters such as this.

"Improved storage capacity, both above and below ground, is crucial to California's long-term ability to withstand droughts, protect against floods and gain the flexibility needed to allow people and the environment to thrive," Wenger said.

The California Farm Bureau Federation works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of more than 48,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of more than 6.2 million Farm Bureau members.

CALIFORNIA EGG PRODUCTION

California's egg production during February totaled 264 million, down 37 million from January's production and down 11 million from February 2016. The all layers during the month totaled 12.2 million, down 1 percent from last month, and down 1 percent from February 2016. Eggs per 100 layers during the month were 2,167, compared to 2,448 a month earlier, and 2,237 in February 2016.

U.S. FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION

United States egg production totaled 8.10 billion during February 2017, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 7.08 billion table eggs, and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 941 million were broiler-type and 74.7 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2017 averaged 375 million, up 3 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,157 eggs, down 2 percent from February 2016.

All layers in the United States on March 1, 2017 totaled 375 million, up 2 percent from last year. The 375 million layers consisted of 317 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.43 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2017, averaged 76.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from March 1, 2016.

U.S. EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2017 totaled 48.2 million, down 5 percent from February 2016. Eggs in incubators totaled 51.5 million on March 1, 2017, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 180 thousand during February 2017, down 5 percent from February 2016.

U.S. BROILER-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED

Broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2017 totaled 730 million, down 2 percent from February 2016. Eggs in incubators totaled 667 million on March 1, 2017, up 3 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.83 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2017, down 3 percent from February 2016.

U.S. TURKEY HATCHERY PRODUCTION

Turkey eggs in incubators on March 1, 2017, in the United States totaled 29.3 million, up 6 percent from March 1, 2016. Eggs in incubators were down 2 percent from the February 1, 2017 total of 29.9 million eggs.

Turkey poults hatched during February 2017, in the United States totaled 23.9 million, up 9 percent from February 2016. Poults hatched were down 6 percent from the January 2017 total of 25.3 million poults.

The 22.6 million net poults placed during February 2017 in the United States were up 6 percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Net placements were down 2 percent from the January 2017 total of 23.0 million.