

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

- [China Is a Growing Mover in World Ag. Markets](#)
Because it has a massive and growing need for agricultural products, China is having a growing influence on world agricultural markets.

Legislature Approves Diesel Tax Increase In Light of Strong Opposition from CCA and California Agriculture

Late last night, **the California State Senate and the Assembly approved SB 1 (Beall) with a 2/3 vote in each chamber to increase excise and sales taxes on gasoline and diesel. SB 1 will increase the excise tax for gasoline by \$.11, the excise tax for on-road diesel by \$.20 and the sales tax for diesel from 1.75% to 5.75%. CCA and other agricultural organizations comprised the most significant opposition against the bill.**

Unfortunately, business groups like the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Trucking Association supported the legislation.

CCA worked in opposition to the bill until the very end, however the Governor and legislative leadership were able to garner the necessary votes with the allocation of transportation money to targeted Senate and Assembly districts. In the Senate, the bill received the support from Republican Senator Anthony Cannella (R-Ceres) and in the Assembly several moderate Democrats received funding for specific projects in their district and thus supported the legislation. Three members of the Assembly including Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove) withheld their vote on the bill until almost midnight receiving intense scrutiny, however extreme pressure by the Governor and legislative leadership ultimately forced the necessary 54 votes in the Assembly to enroll the bill for the Governor's signature.

CCA would like to thank those legislators that stood strong against the legislation. The arbitrary 4-day legislative deadline established by the Governor and legislative leadership after disclosing the "deal" last Friday was completely unnecessary and CCA is extremely disappointed with the outcome of the vote.

California Ranchers Travel to DC for NCBA Annual Legislative Conference

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addressed cattlemen and women at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association annual legislative conference last Thursday in Washington D.C. In his remarks, Administrator Pruitt said he is working to build a partnership between the agency and the men and women who serve as the stewards of our natural resources.

"In Oklahoma, I saw first-hand that cattlemen care deeply about a clean and healthy environment, because their livelihoods depend on it," said Pruitt. "Looking forward, we will build a partnership with landowners across the country and create commonsense rules that protect our environment."

Craig Uden, NCBA president, said he appreciated the candid comments and looks forward to working in collaboration the Administration.

"After eight years of aggressive regulatory overreach, it is reassuring to have an Administrator that wants to work with our nation's farmers and ranchers," said Uden. "We are the front line in terms of environmental stewardship. A one-size-fits-all approach to environmental conservation simply doesn't work, and we look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt to create an environment that incentivizes voluntary conservation and provides the flexibility needed for cattlemen and women to care for their land."

Pruitt's appearance at NCBA's annual legislative conference caps off an action-packed three days during which hundreds of cattle and beef producers stormed Capitol Hill, met with their Senators and Members of Congress about the issues that affect them, got updates from Administration officials, and helped announce the re-establishment of the Congressional Beef Caucus at a Capitol Hill news conference.

California had a strong contingent of cattlemen and women present to lobby members of California's congressional delegation on issues of importance to California ranchers. California ranchers spent time on Capitol Hill along with meeting with several regulatory agencies. Specifically, ranchers lobbied to reverse and make significant amendments to the federally proposed Electronic Logging Device regulation that will prohibit truck drivers beginning in December from complying with Hours of Service restrictions using a manual logbook. Previously in the week, ranchers attended the Public Lands Council conference to discuss and lobby on issues important to permittees.

Assemblyman Cooper Introduces AB 243 to Support California Ranchers

At the request of CCA, Assemblyman Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove) recently introduced AB 243, which will provide California ranchers the opportunity to create the California Beef Research, Promotion and Education Commission (Commission).

In December the CCA Board of Directors unanimously passed policy that directed staff to work with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to increase the Beef Checkoff by an additional one dollar under two conditions: (1) the

additional dollar must be used exclusively to benefit California ranchers, and (2) the additional dollar be refundable. AB 243 will accomplish both objectives.

It's important to note that **AB 243 will not increase the checkoff in California**. If signed by the Governor, AB 243 only provides ranchers the opportunity, through the referendum process, to vote on creating and funding the Commission. Every California rancher will ultimately have a vote on whether or not to create and fund the Commission.

If the Commission is approved by ranchers through the referendum process, it will establish a "California only" checkoff program that is not only refundable but will be administered by California ranchers for the benefit of California ranchers and will not be subject to the approval of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the Cattlemen's Beef Board.

"I see tremendous value in the current Beef Checkoff program and so do our members," said CCA President Dave Daley. "That success has generated a lot of interest and support for increasing the Beef Checkoff in California. But we are all aware that California faces unique challenges and we need to be able to address those challenges head-on without arbitrary interference from USDA. The Commission will provide ranchers increased freedom and flexibility to invest in research, promotion and education projects that directly benefit California beef producers."

Bear River Valley Beef Invites you to a 3-Day High Density Mob Grazing School in Humboldt County

CCA members Hugo and Liz Klopper of Bear River Valley Beef are hosting a three day High Density Mob Grazing School in Eureka on May 16 - 18 and would like to invite fellow ranchers to attend.

The event will feature Ian Mitchell Innes, a South African holistic high density rancher and certified holistic educator. Also featured will be guest speaker Mark Bader of Free Choice Enterprises.

Specific topics to be covered will include:

- **How to use mob grazing as a tool to improve the land.**
- **How to manage livestock and land for profitability.**
- **How to build soils using proper grazing methods.**

and more.

For more information call 707-786-9460 or visit

www.BestGrassFedBeef.com

www.facebook.com/BearRiverValleyBeef/ (see events page.)