

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

- [Moving Forward For California's Water Year](#)
California appears near the end of its long-term drought, although there are still areas of concern in the Golden State.

WEEK ENDING: April 09, 2017

RELEASED: April 10, 2017

WEATHER

The weather across the State last week featured a broad warming trend early in the week and by mid-week a Pacific storm system entered the northwestern United States.

Rains fell on Wednesday across the northern quarter of the State, with up to half an inch falling in the northwestern mountains and northern Sierras. The mountains near Redding received over one inch, with about half an inch across the far northern valley. Rains became more widespread and heavier on Thursday and Friday, with the windward slopes of the northern Sierras receiving as much as three to four inches of rain. Parts of the valley received over one inch of rain, along with the Bay area. **The northern mountains and northwestern coastal mountains received over two inches of rain, with over one inch of rain falling in the central Sierras.** By the weekend, only light precipitation was falling across most of the State, with the heaviest rains falling on the northwestern coastal mountains, which received around another half inch. Very warm temperatures early in the week led to a substantial melting of the mountain snowpack, especially in the 6,000 to 8,000 foot elevation range. However, by the weekend temperatures were cold enough for snowfall of four to eight inches in the northern Sierras above 6,000 feet, and even the southern Sierras received four to eight inches of snow at these elevations, as well. The combination of snowmelt early in the week and snowfall over the weekend resulted in a roughly one foot decrease in snowpack in the 6,000 to 8,000 foot elevation range, while snowpacks above 8,000 feet saw smaller or even negligible decreases.

Temperature highs were in the 50s to 70s in the mountains, 60s to 70s along the coast, 60s to 90s in the desert, and 70s to 80s in the valley. The temperature lows were in the 10s to 30s in the mountains, 40s to 60s in the desert, and 40s to 50s in the valley and along the coast.

FIELD CROPS

Winter forage crops were maturing well. Oats were being cut, dried, and baled. Some alfalfa fields were being cut and baled. Corn seed was being received in advance of planting. Black-eyed beans were exported to Korea.

FRUIT CROPS

The end of the stone fruit bloom was progressing up the state with that in Fresno County essentially complete. Grapevines were in the third to sixth leaf state in Tulare County. Thinning of immature stone fruit began. **Olive** trees were blooming. **Kiwi** vines were leafing out as the temperatures warmed. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued. Older vineyards and orchards continue to be pushed out for new plantings. The late Navel **Orange** harvest was expected to continue for a few more weeks. Reports of rind issues in Navels continued. Valencia and **grapefruit** were harvested. Some orange groves were hedge--rowed and skirted. Seedless **tangerine** groves continued to be netted to prevent cross pollination by bees during bloom. **Blueberries** were blooming and **strawberries** fields were being harvested.

NUT CROPS

A good set was reported for **Almonds** in many orchards in the San Joaquin Valley. New orchards of almond and **walnuts** continued to be planted. **Pistachio** and walnuts were blooming. Strong winds knocked down some branches in Yolo County. Orchard clean up continued after the springs heavy rains and recent wind storms.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In many fields are being prepared for sowing or transplanting vegetables. Cucumbers continued to grow under hot caps. Processed

tomatoes were being planted. Carrots planted completed. Spring lettuce harvest started on March 21, with good prices on both head and leaf lettuces.

LIVESTOCK

Warm temperatures and sufficient precipitation have stimulated range grass. Foothill rangeland and valley dryland pasture forage quality was in good to excellent condition. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued to diminish in response to the favorable range conditions. Sheep grazed on retired pasture and dormant alfalfa. Bees were active in some stone fruit orchards.