

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

Senate Bill Would Protect Farm workers

A bill introduced last week in the U.S. Senate would give farm workers a path to legal status and citizenship. California Senators, Democrats Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, introduced the legislation last week that would shield farm workers who are in the country illegally from deportation and create a path to citizenship, according to the L.A. Times. Feinstein says "farm labor is performed almost exclusively by undocumented immigrants," adding there aren't enough workers in her state. The bill is also backed by senators from Colorado, Vermont and Hawaii, but there's been no broad talk in Congress of reforming immigration laws this year. The legislation would allow undocumented farm workers who have worked in agriculture for at least 100 days in each of the previous two years to earn a "blue card," which would allow them to work legally. They would eventually be eligible for a green card or legal permanent residency, which opens the door to earning citizenship.

- [Pace of U.S. Agricultural Exports Picking up](#)

At the halfway point of the 2017 fiscal year the pace of U.S. agricultural exports is picking up. (Gary Crawford and Bryce Cooke)

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 (Next Tuesday to Thursday) 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.)

SB 88 Informational Workshop in Red Bluff

The Resource Conservation District of Tehama County in partnership with the Tehama County Farm Bureau invite you to attend an informational workshop on recent reservoir and diversion reporting requirements as a result of SB 88 on Wednesday, May 24 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Tehama County Farm Bureau located at 275 Sale Lane in Red Bluff.

Attendance is free and lunch will be provided. Discussions will include an overview of the requirements, monitoring methods and resources for compliance. Guests will hear from featured speakers Kirk Wilbur, California Cattlemen's Association and Sawn Pike, Right to Water Engineering.

RSVP to Lindsey Affonso at (530) 737-5180 or via e-mail at lindsey@tehamacountyrcd.org. Respond quickly as space is limited.

Trump Administration Unveils Tax Reform Package

Last week top officials in the Trump Administration released their proposal for comprehensive tax reform, calling it the "biggest tax cut in US history." The plan is designed to serve as the starting point as Congress and the Administration work to pass a comprehensive tax reform package this year. Highlights of the plan include:

- **A full tax repeal of the death tax.** During the press briefing announcing the tax package, one reporter asked if the White House proposal repealed the death tax immediately or if the tax would be phased out over a period of time. National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn responded that right now, the plan would eliminate the death tax immediately upon enactment.
- It is similar to the House GOP Blueprint for tax reform, but does not include the border-adjustment tax which paid for a number of reforms in the House proposal by imposing a new tax on imports.
- The plan lowers the tax rate to 15 percent for corporations, small businesses and partnerships of all sizes, and restores a 20 percent rate on capital gains.
- On the individual side, it proposes condensing the existing seven income-tax rates to just three, cutting the individual top rate to 35 percent from 39.6 percent. The plan also repeals the alternative minimum tax and would end a 3.8 percent net investment income tax that applies only to individuals who

earn more than \$200,000 a year.

- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin stated, "We are determined to move as fast as we can and get this done this year." Throughout the month of May the Administration will hold stakeholder listening sessions and will continue working with House and Senate leadership to develop a detailed plan that can pass both chambers of Congress.

Moving forward, NCBA and CCA will continue to engage with the Administration and lawmakers on Capitol Hill to ensure that any comprehensive tax reform package includes a full, permanent repeal of the death tax. We will also work to safeguard provisions in the tax code which currently help to ease the financial challenges facing US livestock producers (stepped-up basis, cash accounting, like-kind exchanges, tax deductions for interest expense, etc).

(Source: NCBA)

Trump Administration to Review National Monument Designations

Last week, President Trump signed an Executive Order calling for review of National Monument designations made under the Antiquities Act since 1996 by presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

While the Antiquities Act was originally intended to protect "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, [and] other objects of historic or scientific interest," recent presidents have instead used the Act to bypass Congress and local communities to place heavy restrictions on massive areas of land. President Obama used the Antiquities Act more than any previous president—locking up 256 million acres of land and water in 30 separate designations.

Significant areas of California have been designated as National Monuments. For instance, before leaving office in 2001, President Clinton established the Carrizo Plain National Monument within San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties; its management by the Bureau of Land Management resulted in severe curtailments of grazing. President Obama designated significant swaths of California as National Monuments, including Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in 2015 (331,000 acres) and Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains National Monuments (totaling 1.8 million acres). Just prior to leaving office, Obama also expanded the California Coastal National Monument by more than 6,000 acres, and expanded the Cascades-Siskiyou National Monument by 48,000 acres, roughly 5,000 acres of which is within California.

CCA has long opposed such designations, because they often form a basis for removal or curtailment of livestock grazing.

President Trump's Executive Order instructs Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to review all National Monument designations made since January 1, 1996 and to

suggest any appropriate actions for limiting those designations within the original intent of the Antiquities Act by August.

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July 1 Deadline for Water Diversion Reports and Measurement Requirements Approaching

Water rights holders filing Statements of Diversion and Use (e.g. those with pre-1914 and riparian rights) will soon be required to file those statements for 2016 on the State Water Resources Control Board's website, as the filing deadline for statements is July 1. The reports must be made electronically using the Water Board's Electronic Water Rights Information Management System Report Management System (eWRIMS RMS), which can be found [here](#). Failure to file water use reports by the deadline may subject diverters to fines up to \$500 per day.

Under new regulations adopted by the Water Board last year, those filing 2016 water use reports for permits, licenses, registrations and certificates were recently required to file water use reports by April 1. Filing the reports proved to be a challenge, with the Water Board's phone lines over-stressed and voicemail recordings stating that Water Board staff may take up to a week to issue a response. Given the challenges experienced by those reporting by April 1, CCA encourages Statement filers to begin the filing process as early as possible.

July 1 is also the deadline by which any water rights holder with a diversion of 100 acre-feet or more of water annually must install a measurement device at their point of diversion. For those unable to strictly comply with the measurement requirement, requests for extensions of time, alternative compliance plans or measurement methods are available at the eWRIMS RMS website, and must also be filed by July 1.

For more information on the reporting and measurement requirements, see the April edition of the *California Cattleman* or contact Kirk Wilbur in the CCA office.

CCA Carefully Monitoring Lawsuits Targeting Grazing on Federal Lands

On March 28, the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC) and Sierra Forest Legacy filed a lawsuit against the Stanislaus National Forest alleging violations of the Clean Water Act, California's Porter Cologne Act (addressing water quality within the state), the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act on three grazing allotments within the Stanislaus National Forest.

A primary focus of CSERC's suit is its claim that grazing has resulted in violations of federal and state water quality standards for fecal coliform in streams within the three allotments. CCA maintains that CSERC's methods of sampling water quality are suspect, and CSERC's claims are contradicted by water quality sampling conducted by other organizations, including UC Rangelands.

CCA is committed to protecting the rights of the permittees whose allotments are implicated in the CSERC lawsuit. Over the coming weeks, CCA staff will be in communication with the permittees, US Forest Service staff and CCA's litigation partners to determine the best strategy for ensuring that grazing rights are maintained on those allotments.

Meanwhile, CCA is also closely watching a potential attack against grazing rights within the Klamath National Forest. On January 25, the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) issued to the Klamath National Forest a notice of intent to sue for claimed violations of the Endangered Species Act. The notice of intent alleges that permitted livestock grazing is responsible for the decline of coho salmon.

CCA has had preliminary discussions with impacted permittees and members of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors regarding the threatened lawsuit, and will continue to develop a strategy for protecting permittees' grazing rights within the Klamath National Forest.

Though both of these actions are in their early phases, CCA will continue to track these lawsuits and will keep you informed of any developments, as well as CCA efforts to ensure that grazing rights are not curtailed within our National Forests due to the agenda-driven litigation of fringe environmental groups.

Southern Valley Beef Conference

Sponsored by California Beef Cattle Improvement Association in cooperation with Fresno State Animal Sciences Department, UC Cooperative Extension and Fresno-Kings County Cattlemen's Association.

Saturday, May 13, 2017

8:00 am Registration

9:00 am Managing Ranches for Profitability -

Even in

Tough Economic Times

Mr. Burke Teichert, Teichert Management & Consulting, Orem, Utah

10:45 am Coffee Break

11:00 am Experiences from 70 Years of Breeding Angus
Cattle Mr. Bill Borrer, Tehama Angus Ranch, Gerber, California

12:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Panel Discussion on How to add Value to Beef
Calves at Weaning

Mr. John Rodgers, Western Video Market and The Stockman's Market, Visalia, California

Mr. Dave Thompson, Cargill Beef Solutions and Famoso Cattle Company, Chiloquin, Oregon

Mr. Dennis Metzger, Superior Livestock Auction Company Anderson, California

Cost - \$30.00 includes lunch and refreshments during morning break

[Register online here.](#)

Hotel Reservations can be made by contacting Piccadilly Inn Airport - (559) 375-7760

Hotel address - 5115 E. McKinley Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727

We will also be hosting a tour of various cattle operations in the south valley on Friday, May 12, 2017 for the California Young Cattlemen's Committee. Anybody is welcome to participate in that tour. Vans will leave the Piccadilly Inn Airport at 8 a.m. on Friday morning. No cost for the tour - you will be responsible for covering the cost of your lunch.

Stockmanship and Stewardship Program

The Stockmanship and Stewardship program will be coming to UC Davis June 23-24.

The event will cover live cattle handling demonstrations featuring Curt Pate and Ron Gill, hands-on training and offer new information in the cattle industry. Attendees will have the opportunity to earn their Beef Quality Assurance certification and lead right into the UC Davis Production Horse Sale on Saturday June 24.

Registration for the event is \$50 and includes meals. To register, please visit [here.](#)

If you are unable to make this date work, another program will be offered Sept. 20-Oct. 1 in San Luis Obispo this fall.

Power to the people! May marks the enrollment of energy customers within Humboldt County in a Community Choice Energy (CCE) program. This program was designed by local city councils and county supervisors and will offer lower rates on electricity -- keeping the benefits and control right here. The program will source 40% of its power from renewables during the first year, such as hydro, wind, solar, and local biomass. PG&E will continue to deliver electricity and maintain the power lines. The program has been several years in development through Redwood Coast Energy Authority. Humboldt is fortunate to have several sources of locally produced energy and UCCE's Yana Valachovic worked with local city councils and boards to help answer questions about local biomass energy generation throughout the development of the CCE. Over 1,000 Community Choice Energy programs are currently operating in the United States, and with its launch this month Redwood Coast Energy Authority's program becomes the eighth CCE in California.

shared issues and achieve common goals. These individuals and organizations provide essential services and support while enriching the local community and extending our work at Cooperative Extension.

In this 2016 Year in Review, we offer highlights of how our programs touch families, communities, and local businesses. To accomplish our mission, we partner with both Humboldt and Del Norte Counties to offer practical solutions to life's challenges,

connecting the issue to the information resources of the University of California, and providing trusted research-based solutions.

All of us at Cooperative Extension feel so fortunate to work with you. If you are looking for an opportunity to give back to your community, consider becoming a 4-H leader or a Master Food Preserver.