

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

It's a big week for farm trade, with the Trump Administration testifying on Capitol Hill and meeting with the ag ministers of Canada and Mexico on updating the North American Free Trade Agreement.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer goes before the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday, House Ways and Means, Thursday, on the president's trade policy.

National Pork Producers Council Spokesman Dave Warner says NPPC wants Lighthizer to make one key commitment in updating NAFTA...tape

Cut #1 :19 OC:... "number four."

Warner says NPPC supports updating NAFTA provisions that eliminate non-tariff, sanitary barriers, using the defunct TPP's provisions as a template.

Meanwhile, American Farm Bureau's Dave Salmonsens says AFB also wants USTR Lighthizer to protect NAFTA ag gains...tape

Cut #2 :15 OC:... "done to it."

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, meantime, will host his Canadian and Mexican counterparts in pre-NAFTA talks in Georgia. NPPC's Warner says other trade issues, including a Japan bilateral deal could come up during Lighthizer's Hill testimony...tape

Cut #4 :20 OC:... "to the administration."

Japan is the number one US pork customer.

Week Ending: June 18, 2017

Released: June 19, 2017

WEATHER

A departing upper-level trough early in the week left cooler air across parts of the State with a few lingering showers on Monday. Rainfall was mostly limited to Monday across the far northeastern corner of the State near Alturas, which received just over half an inch of rain on Monday. A few isolated sprinkles moistened parts of the central and northern Sierras on Monday, as well. This quickly gave way to a building mid-level ridge over the southwestern United States, which brought dry air and hot conditions to much of the State.

Temperatures rose dramatically last week, with very hot temperatures across nearly all parts of the State except perhaps the coastal northern areas. Very warm temperatures helped accelerate snowmelt in the mountains. **Both Mt. Whitney in the south and Mt. Shasta in the north were still snowcapped on their peaks, with Mt. Shasta expected to remain so for some time. Snowcover elsewhere is now limited to a band about 40 miles wide between Tahoe and the Sequoia National Forest, at elevations above 8,000 feet. There was still eight feet of snowcover at these locations, with the area just north of Yosemite still estimated at six feet of snowcover.**

Temperature highs were in the 50s to 60s along the coast, 60s to 80s in the mountains, 90s to 100s in the valley, and 90s to 110s in the desert. The temperature lows were in the 40s to 50s in the mountains, 50s to 60s along the coast, 50s to 70s in the valley, and 60s to 80s in the desert.

FIELD CROPS

Silage **corn** planting was completed. Fields were being prepared and planted with summer beans, Sudan grass, and silage **sorghum**. Wheat harvest for grain was approaching completion. Small grains such as **oats** and **barley** were being cut and baled, or harvested for grain. **Alfalfa** fields were making excellent progress and being irrigated, cut, and baled. Corn planting continued and earlier planted fields were growing well, with some developing tassels. **Cotton** was being irrigated and growing well.

FRUIT CROPS

Peaches, nectarines, apricots, and plums continue to be harvested. Some orchard floors were lined with reflective plastic to improve color prior to harvest. **Grapevines** continued to have leaves removed to allow for improved air circulation and light around the developing bunches to improve color. **Kiwi** fruit were thinned. **Cherry** harvest was wrapping up for the season. Navel **orange** harvest was nearly complete. Valencia orange harvest continued. **Grapefruit** harvest was drawing to a close. Old citrus trees were being pulled to make way for new citrus varieties. Since bloom was complete for seedless tangerines, removal of the protective netting began.

NUT CROPS

Weed control in **almond** orchards was ongoing. **Pistachio, walnut,** and almond orchards were irrigated and fertilized. Mechanical and chemical weed control operations continued in nut orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Colusa County, row crops such as **tomatoes** were growing at a fast pace. In San Joaquin County, tomatoes and **sweet corn** were growing well. Summer vegetables were harvested and offered for sale at local Farmer's markets. Field ground preparation and planting of crops continued. In Fresno County, tomatoes were kept fresh by continual irrigation. **Red onions, carrots, and peppers** were harvested. Onions for seed were irrigated. In Tulare County, summer vegetables were harvested and shipped domestically. Italian **squash, peppers, and cucumbers** were harvested. **Eggplant** and tomatoes continued to grow and mature. In Imperial County, spring **melons** and sweet corn were harvested. Some growers reported exceptional yields. Dehydrated onions were harvested and shipped out of the valley for processing. Large insect activity was reported in onion fields.

LIVESTOCK

As the summer heat dries out the grasses and forages, range and dryland pasture forage quality began to deteriorate. Foothill range and valley dryland pasture was in fair to very poor condition. Some cattle

were moved to higher elevation range. Sheep grazed on retired pasture and dormant alfalfa. Bees were active in vegetable fields.