

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

Farm Bill Number Crunching

It looks like lawmakers will have \$130 billion less to write the upcoming farm bill than they did for the past one. The Congressional Budget Office made that announcement when it published its 10-year baseline projections. The C.B.O. predicts that both farm and nutrition programs would cost roughly \$822 billion over the next ten years. That breaks down to \$679 billion for the SNAP program and \$143 billion for ag programs like crop insurance, commodity subsidies, conservation, and other programs. However, the money lawmakers have available could go even lower if Congress passes a budget resolution. House Budget Committee Chair Diane Black, a Tennessee Republican, along with the House Freedom Caucus, had been asking for massive farm bill spending cuts over the next ten years. House Ag Committee Chair Mike Conaway and Black came to an agreement on a spending number that Conaway says will allow him to write a farm bill. Politico's Morning Ag Report took a look at costs in the 2014 Farm Bill and found lower numbers than expected. The SNAP program, crop insurance, and conservation programs all cost less than budgeted for, with commodity subsidies the only area that cost more than budgeted for in 2014.

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/Press_Releases/Press_Release.asp?PRnum=17-032

**CDFA ANNOUNCES \$5.1 MILLION
IN CAP-AND-TRADE FUNDED
GRANTS FOR 2017 STATE WATER
EFFICIENCY AND ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAM (SWEEP)**



SACRAMENTO, July 3, 2017 –The California Department of Food and Agriculture is pleased to announce the projects selected for the 2017 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). Fifty-eight agricultural operations throughout the state will receive grant funding to improve crop irrigation systems that result in water savings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The 2017 SWEEP list of selected projects is available online at: www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep.

The State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, a competitive grant program, was initiated in 2014 in response to California’s historic five-year drought. The program has attracted a lot of attention as agricultural operations look for opportunities to improve water and energy efficiencies in agricultural practices.

The program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities. The program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution.

More than 230 agricultural operations applied to receive funding through the 2017 SWEEP solicitation process. Applications and quantifications of water and GHG benefits were thoroughly reviewed by a team of irrigation specialists from the University of California and California State University systems.

The awarded projects can combine multiple strategies to achieve the required water savings and emissions reductions. Project components often include drip systems, variable frequency pumps, solar energy, and sensors or weather stations to effectively time irrigation with crop water needs. The 2017 SWEEP awards leverage \$7 million in matching funds from the program participants, thereby furthering the positive impacts and buy-in of the program.

Since SWEEP was launched in 2014 the program has extended funding to 587 projects, totaling more than \$62 million. Cumulative benefits are estimated at 958,000 acre-feet of water savings — enough to fill more than two-million swimming pools - and 741,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide-

equivalent of greenhouse gas emission reductions over 10 years, the equivalent of the removal of more than 20 thousand vehicles from our roads.

WEEK ENDING: July 2, 2017

RELEASED: July 5, 2017

WEATHER

A ridge of high pressure sat over the western United States, which resulted in another hot and dry week across the State. **The only rain for the week was along the northern coast, where Eureka reported four hundredths of an inch for the week. A broken band of snow approximately 40 miles wide between Lake Tahoe and Sequoia National Forest still existed above 9,000 feet. Snow depths in this band were two to four feet at most. The peaks of Mt. Whitney, Mt. Lassen, and Mt. Shasta remained snow-capped.**

Temperature highs were in the 50s to 80s along the coast, 70s to 90s in the mountains, 80s to 100s in the valley, and 90s to 110s in the desert. The temperature lows were in the 30s to 50s in the mountains, 50s to 60s along the coast and the valley, and 60s to 80s in the desert.

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa fields were making excellent progress and being irrigated. **Corn** and **sorghum** planting for silage were almost complete, but still being cultivated and irrigated. The corn silage crop was in various stages, from newly planted to already producing tassels, and the earliest planted corn was developing ears. **Cotton** continued to be irrigated, cultivated, and was growing well. **Black-eyed** beans continued to be irrigated and cultivated.

FRUIT CROPS

Peach, nectarine, apricot, and plum harvests continued. Fruit orchards and vineyards were irrigated. Some apple orchards used overhead cooling systems to mitigate the impact of the heat. Late Navel **orange** harvest was complete for the season. Valencia orange harvest continued. With high temperatures, regreening in citrus has become more common, and packers were color sorting to compensate. Ruby Red **grapefruit** were harvested.

NUT CROPS

Walnut, almond, and pistachio orchards were irrigated. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued in nut orchards. Pistachios were fertilized. In some locations walnut growers applied sunburn preventive materials.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Tulare County certified producers were picking **tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and peppers** for sale at the local Farmers' Markets. Italian squash, **eggplant, and cucumbers** continued to be harvested. **Blueberry and strawberry** harvests slowed down and were expected to come to a close with hot weather. Sweet **corn** harvest began with a few roadside stands opening and sales at the local Farmers' markets. **Carrot** harvest had slowed down. In Fresno County, **carrots** harvest was reaching its end. Pepper harvest was completed with good yields. Dehydrated **onion** left to dry. Fresh onions harvest was half completed. Roughly one-third of the **onion** harvest had been completed. Onion seed drying out. In Monterey County, **celery** harvest began and was picking up. In Imperial County, spring **melons** and sweet corn were harvested. Some growers reported exceptional yields. Many farmers were finished with melon harvest and were plowing fields. In Colusa, Sacramento, Solano, and Yolo Counties, tomato crops were progressing, even though the recent heat wave slowed crop development.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated grasses and forbs continued to dry out as the dry days of summer continued. Rangeland was reported to be in good to very poor condition depending on elevation, aspect and soil moisture. Foothill watering holes were drying up. Cattle continued to be moved to higher elevation range. Milk production was impacted by the high heat. Livestock deaths increased due to the extended elevated temperatures. Sheep grazed on retired pasture and dormant alfalfa. Bees were active in melon and vegetable fields.