

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

A continuing fight over manure emissions

Farm and livestock groups will continue to fight for an exemption from emergency reporting of manure emissions, after the EPA lost a federal court decision to environmental groups that sued over the exemption.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit denied a request by pork, poultry and other livestock and farm groups to rehear its rejection of an EPA exemption from 2008 U.S. manure emission reporting regulations. American Farm Bureau's Andrew Walmsley argues that hazardous substance reporting is unnecessary for manure...tape

Cut 1 :16 OC..."a solution"

Walmsley and other ag leaders expect EPA to ask the court to stay its decision and give the agency more time to figure out a way forward. Without a stay, AFB, National Pork Producers, poultry and cattle groups fear more lawsuits by environmentalists...tape

Cut 2 :13 OC..."and ranchers"

Walmsley adds, there's no way scientifically, to measure manure emissions, creating a reporting 'headache' for producers, while possibly overwhelming emergency call centers. AFB, NPPC and other groups hope EPA can come up with a regulatory way out of the manure reporting mess.

WEEK ENDING: June 11, 2017 RELEASED: June 12, 2017

FREQUENCY: Weekly VOL. 37 NO. 49

WEATHER

Last week started hot and dry as an upper-level ridge controlled the weather pattern across the western United States before breaking down, allowing cooler and moist air to seep into California for the weekend.

Beginning Wednesday, parts of the northern half of the State had light scattered showers each day. The heaviest rains fell in the northwestern coastal mountains, windward slopes of the northern and central Sierras, and parts of the northern valley, which received an inch of rain

through the week. Lighter amounts fell elsewhere across the northern part of the state through Sunday, with most areas received below a quarter of an inch. Temperatures were cold enough on Friday evening for a few snow showers at elevations above 7,000 feet in the central and northern Sierras. A dusting up to one inch of snow fell, but quickly melted by the next day. Warm temperatures continued to contribute to snowmelt in the mountains. Snowcover still existed on Mt. Shasta, Mt. Whitney, as well as elevations at above 7,500 feet in the central Sierras.

Temperature highs were in the 60s to 70s along the coast, 60s to 80s in the mountains, 80s to 90s in the valley, and 90s to 110s in the desert. The temperature lows were in the 20s to 40s in the mountains, 40s to 50s along the coast, 50s to 60s in the valley, and 50s to 70s in the desert.

FIELD CROPS

Silage corn continued to be planted. Previously planted corn was growing well. Most fields were being planted with summer beans, silage corn, Sudan grass, and silage sorghum. Wheat harvest for grain began, and gleanings were baled for wheat straw. Alfalfa fields were making excellent progress being cut, dried, and baled. Cotton was emerging and being irrigated.

FRUIT CROPS

Early peaches, nectarines, apricots, and plums were 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 winding down for the season. Valencia oranges continued to be harvested. Grapefruit harvest was drawing to a close. Old citrus trees were being pulled to make way for new citrus varieties.

NUT CROPS

Almond orchard floors were sprayed for weeds. Pistachio, walnut, and almond orchards were irrigated and fertilized. Mechanical and chemical weed control operations continued in nut orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Fresno County, the start of warmer spring weather brought about good growth in all vegetable crops. Fresh market tomato plants started flowering. Various chili and bell pepper varieties started to set fruit. Carrots showed vigorous growth. The majority of garlic and onion fields continued to be irrigated as they matured. Cantaloupes, honeydew, and watermelon were growing well with the warm weather. Asparagus harvest ended and fern development started. Blueberries and strawberries continued to be harvested. Raspberry, blackberry, and boysenberry harvest continued. Broccoli for seed production started drying out. Lettuce plantings for seed production have emerged and were irrigated. Roadside stands started offering a variety of summer crops, including cucumbers, green beans, squash, peppers, and onions.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill range and valley dryland pasture forage quality was in fair to good condition. Low elevation rangeland continued to dry. Sheep grazed on retired pasture and dormant alfalfa. Bees were active in vegetable fields.