

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

- [Soybean Association CEO Nominated For USDA Deputy Secretary](#)
A former USDA official and current CEO of the American Soybean Association was announced as the President's choice for the number two post at the Agriculture Department. (Rod Bain and Steve Censky)

Technology Driving Many Aspects of California Agriculture

Audio with Publisher Steve Forbes

Technology is driving many aspects of California agriculture. Publishing executive Steve Forbes was at the recent Forbes ag tech summit in Salinas, where the talk was bringing the digital world into agriculture. Forbes said the difference between the stone age and now is information.

Audio

While California farmers are being called to feed the world all the specialty crops in the state, they are being overregulated and stifled to get the job done. Forbes says don't get in the way of human ingenuity

Audio

CCA Achieves Legislative Success in Sacramento

CCA has achieved numerous legislative victories as California legislators prepare to leave Sacramento for summer recess on July 21. First, CCA's sponsored bill to bring relief to ranchers who are required to comply with the State Water Resources Control Board emergency regulation for measuring and reporting the diversion of water (SB 88) passed the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee by a vote of 9-0.

AB 589, by Assemblymember Frank Bigelow (R-O'Neals), would require the University of California Cooperative Extension to establish a course allowing water rights diverters subject to the regulation to self-certify the installation of a measuring device and thus avoid costs associated with consulting a professional engineer or approved contractor currently required by the regulation for diversions of 100 acre feet or more. AB 589 is an important bill that will not only help address compliance costs but will also provide a legislative vehicle moving forward to address further complications with the implementation of SB 88.

AB 589 will now be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee. A vote on the bill is not likely to occur until after the legislature reconvenes from summer recess on August 21.

CCA also lead an effort in the Assembly to amend SB 158 by Senator William Monning (D-Carmel) to provide an exemption for drivers operating vehicles that require a commercial driver's license (CDL) from needing to attend truck school. Federal regulations adopted by the Obama Administration in 2016 required states to implement a regulation requiring new applicants for CDLs to first attend a certified truck training school. The federal regulation also allowed states to exempt vehicles used in agriculture, under certain conditions, from the requirement.

SB 158 seeks to implement the federal regulation, and with amendments made in the Assembly Transportation Committee at the request of CCA, the Department of Motor Vehicles will be required to adopt the agricultural exemptions when implementing the rule in 2020. New applicants for CDLs operating agricultural vehicles will not need to attend a truck school first or achieve 15 hours of behind-the-wheel training if the vehicle or vehicle and trailer combination is:

- Operated by a farmer or rancher, or an employee of a farmer or rancher; and
- Used in a not-for-hire capacity; and
- Operated within 150 air miles of the farmer's or rancher's farm.

Currently, farmers and ranchers are required to obtain a CDL for any vehicle and trailer combination exceeding a gross combined weight rating of 26,000 lbs. All others, including those hauling farm products or livestock in a for-hire capacity, are required to obtain a CDL in California when operating a single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 26,000 lbs. or hauling a trailer with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 lbs.

CCA greatly appreciates the help provided by the Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee, Assemblymember Jim Frazier (D-Oakley) who worked on CCA's behalf to secure the amendment. CCA also appreciates Senator Monning for his willingness to accept the amendment and his office's work early on to understand our concerns.

CCA Supports House Bill to Delay Implementation of Controversial Truck Log Book Rule

CCA applauds language that was included in the U.S. House of Representatives Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill that will delay the implementation of an Obama Administration-era rule to require truck drivers to utilize an Electronic Logging Device (ELD) to comply with federal Hours of Service (HOS) regulations that govern how long a truck driver can operate his or her vehicle prior to taking a mandatory 10 hour break.

The rule is set to be implemented in December of this year, and the adoption of this legislation will allow CCA, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and a coalition of other agricultural organizations to provide a permanent fix to the HOS rules governing the transportation of livestock. CCA would like to thank Congressman David Valadao (R-CA) who worked closely with CCA to provide this amendment to the House appropriations bill. CCA will strongly support this bill moving forward.

Settlement Reached in Point Reyes Lawsuit

On Wednesday, the parties in *Resource Renewal Institute v. National Park Service* released the terms of a settlement agreement concerning the litigation at the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) in Marin County.

In February of 2016, three environmental groups sued the PRNS for failure to timely update its 1980 General Management Plan (GMP) and seeking to halt a Comprehensive Ranch Management Plan for the PRNS aimed in part at providing long-term leases for ranchers at the PRNS. The Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association, 24 ranching families and Marin County all intervened in the lawsuit to defend continued agriculture at the PRNS.

The terms of the settlement require the National Park Service to prepare a GMP amendment and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) within four years. The EIS must consider a no action alternative, a no ranching alternative, a reduced ranching alternative and a no dairy-ranching alternative, though the settlement does not preclude the Park Service from examining other alternatives.

Importantly, the settlement also allows the Park Service to issue five-year Interim Leases to PRNS ranchers. While the five-year leases fall far short of the 20-year leases the ranchers have sought, it is an improvement over one-year leases the PRNS issued to some ranching families beginning in 2014.

The PRNS expects to begin the planning process this fall. CCA will be heavily involved in the process and seek a GMP amendment that preserves the rich ranching history of the Point Reyes National Seashore.

For more information, contact Kirk Wilbur in the CCA office.

CDFW Collars Wolf, Confirms Lassen Pack

On July 5, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced the successful collaring of a female wolf in Lassen County on June 30. The female is the first wolf residing in California to be radio-collared; though wolves radio-collared by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have previously ventured into California, such as OR-7 and OR-25, those wolves have ultimately returned to Oregon.

According to the CDFW, "The tracking collar...will collect data relative to her activity patterns, survival, reproduction and prey preferences."

Based on visual markers, CDFW believes the newly-collared wolf to be the female of the previously-identified Lassen Pair, though the Department will test DNA samples collected at the time it trapped and collared the wolf to confirm.

On July 1, CDFW sought to conduct a routine follow-up check on the female wolf. At that time, wildlife biologists encountered what appeared to be the tracks of wolf pups, and a number of photos captured on a nearby US Forest Service trail camera confirmed the presence of at least three pups belonging to what has now been dubbed the Lassen Pack.

According to a CDFW official contacted by CCA, the breeding male of the Lassen Pack has not been seen recently.

CCA is following up with CDFW to determine whether the agency intends to make use of radio-collar data to inform livestock producers (and if so, how), and CCA will also seek to ensure that the presence of wolves does not negatively impact grazing leases on the Lassen National Forest.

For more information, see the CDFW press release [here](#) or contact Kirk Wilbur in the CCA office.