

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

Healthcare reform is still front and center in the U.S. Senate, but that could change quickly if healthcare legislation continues to sputter. Farm groups are getting ready for a possible swift pivot to the next big GOP goal—tax reform. Pressure is building for Senate Republicans to make a choice: either stay on health care despite continued setbacks or move onto tax reform.

American Farm Bureau tax adviser Pat Wolff says they can't do tax reform at the same time as healthcare without sacrificing budget rules that allow for passage of healthcare with a simple versus a supermajority...tape

Cut 1 :15 OC..."move forward"

Wolff says House and Senate lawmakers are already laying the groundwork for tax legislation with hearings and requests for public input, so bills can move quickly once introduced. Wolff says Farm Bureau's putting "everything on the record"...tape

Cut 2 :29 OC..."is important"

Farm Bureau wants single-year equipment expensing, cash accounting, like-kind exchanges to defer taxes when replacing assets, lower capital gains taxes, and an end to the estate tax.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER
WEEK ENDING: July 16, 2017
RELEASED: July 17, 2017

WEATHER

Another hot and dry week prevailed across the State, with the only precipitation being a few sprinkles in parts of the central Sierras on Saturday. Patchy snow fields still exist in the Stanislaus National Forest area at elevations above 10,500 feet, along with patchy snow on the top of Mt. Whitney. Mt. Shasta remains snow-capped with broken snow cover.

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

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa fields were being irrigated, cut, and baled. Planting of corn and sorghum for silage was 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. Wheat harvest for grain was in its last stage, and straw was being baled. Cotton continued to be irrigated, cultivated, and growing well. Cotton was forming squares and blooming. Black-eyed beans continued to be irrigated and cultivated.

FRUIT CROPS

The peach, nectarine, and plum harvest was in full swing. Apricot harvest was wrapping up for the year. Fruit orchards and vineyards were irrigated. Cherry orchards were pruned and postharvest insecticides applied. The continued high temperatures slowed pear development. Some table grapes were harvested in Tulare County. Veraison, grape coloring, was reported in some Napa County vineyards. Fungicides and insecticides were applied to grapes. Valencia orange harvest continued. Regreening in citrus has become more common due to the elevated temperatures. Packers were color sorting to compensate. Citrus harvest was nearing the end in part due to the high temperatures.

NUT CROPS

Walnut, almond and pistachio orchards were irrigated. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued in nut orchards. Hull split sprays were applied to some almonds. New almond orchards were planted. Pistachios were fertilized. Walnuts were sizing well. Sun block and codling moth sprays were applied to walnuts. Harvest preparation activities began with dead wood removal and orchard floor prep.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Colusa County, the processing tomato harvest was underway. **In San Joaquin County, harvest was ongoing for sweet corn, cantaloupes, honeydew melons, watermelons, squash, cucumbers and other fresh vegetable crops for Farmer's Markets.** Tomatoes were progressing well. In Fresno County, harvest was underway for organic and conventional tomatoes with lower yields than expected. Quality was reported as very good. The fresh onion harvest was nearing completion, while carrots were prepped for harvest. Dehydrated onions and garlic were drying out for harvest. The onion seed harvest was complete. In Tulare County, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and peppers were sold at the local Farmers' Markets. Yellow squash, zucchini, eggplant, Bell peppers, green chili peppers, and cucumbers were harvested and shipped domestically. Sweet corn harvest was picking up with more roadside stands opening and sales at the local Farmer's Markets. Melons were irrigated and prepared for the upcoming harvest.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated grasses and forbs continued to dry with the summer heat. Rangeland was reported to be in fair to very poor condition. As rangeland nutritive value declines supplemental feeding began. Fires across the state raged in forest and rangeland, forcing some animal evacuations. More than twice as many acres have burned this year to date as the five average of the same interval. Milk production was negatively impacted by the extreme temperatures. Cattle continue to be moved to higher elevation range. Sheep grazed on retired pasture and dormant alfalfa. Bees were active in alfalfa for seed, melon, sunflower and vegetable fields.