

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

Court Denies Petition to Ban Pesticide

A U.S. Appeals Court in San Francisco denied a petition from environmental groups to force the Environmental Protection Agency to ban the pesticide chlorpyrifos (klohr-peer'-uh-fohs). Reuters says that decision ends one of three parallel attempts to get the ban put in place. The groups, including Earthjustice and the Natural Resources Defense Council, wanted the ban in place because they allege the EPA took too long to make a decision on the safety of the pesticide. The judges wrote in their findings that even though EPA did drag its heels on the matter for ten years, the agency has done what the judges asked it to do. The court had previously ordered the EPA to issue a final decision on the ten-year old petition to ban the pesticide, which is considered a neurotoxin by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The EPA formally denied the petition on March 29th, and the environmental groups alleged the denial was inadequate because it didn't contain any new safety findings. A lawyer for Earthjustice says the groups are pursuing two other court challenges related the EPA's decision in March.

- [USDA Detects Atypical BSE in Alabama Beef Cow This Week](#)

An Alabama beef cow has been found positive for atypical BSE.

Dr. Jack Shere, USDA Chief Veterinarian, talking about measures the USDA takes when atypical BSE is detected.

H-2A Program May Be Expanded

The House Appropriations Committee adopted an amendment to the fiscal 2018 Homeland Security Spending Bill that would help dairy producers and other farmers that need year round labor. The amendment would expand the types of businesses that can apply for the H-2A visa program for temporary or seasonal workers. Politico's Morning Ag Report says it would also nullify the requirement that the work would be short term in nature. Washington Republican Dan Newhouse, a farmer himself, was the amendment author and says, "The amendment is a small starting point of relief we can provide our farmers who need workers." The amendment doesn't change how long a worker can stay in the country, which is three years with renewals. It doesn't change the fact that farmers must first look for

American workers. National Milk Producers Federation President Jim Mulhern says the amendment recognizes that we need to create new approaches to getting dairy employers the labor they need. Labor isn't as on board with the deal. United Farm Workers President Arturo Rodriguez called the program deeply flawed and was "stunned" that two Democrats supported the measure. The group Farmworker Justice says the amendment does nothing to fix H-2A, which it says is "rife with abuses."