

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

Ireland Could be GMO-Free Haven

Ireland Minister of State for Agriculture Andrew Doyle says the island nation should have a status as GMO-free to maintain biodiversity. The Irish Times reports that the comments by Doyle were expressed as his personal opinion, and not that of the nation's Agricultural and Food Development Authority, which takes the "follow the science" approach. Doyle claims the island could be a "reservoir" of non-GMO seed varieties in the event of an international food scare. Doyle says he believes Ireland could be a seed bank for mainstream arable crops such as wheat, oats and barley, all crops that are not commercially available as GMO products. His comments came as he also says Ireland is "not going to be an organic island" and that he thinks the nation should not try to be, adding that "organic has its place, but it is not mainstream."

The so-called "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico increased this year, after excessive spring flooding throughout the Mississippi river basin. That flooding wiped out farmers' best efforts to minimize nitrogen runoff from their fields. Opponents to modern agriculture may be quick to point a finger at farmers and ranchers, but American Farm Bureau Federation senior director of regulatory relations Don Parrish says weather is to blame...tape

Cut #1 :24 OC:... "those efforts."

California will host a farm bill listening session on Saturday, August 5 in Modesto at the Modesto Junior College Ag Pavilion. We have posted a link at FarmerMorgan on Facebook