

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

Almond Producers Top Users of Pollination Services

The Department of Agriculture says almond growers were the top users of pollination services in 2016. Farmers growing crops that depend on pollination can rely on wild pollinators in the area or pay beekeepers to provide honeybees or other managed bees, such as the blue orchard bee. In 2016, U.S. farmers paid \$354 million for pollination services. USDA says producers of almonds alone accounted for 80 percent of that amount, more than \$280 million. By comparison, producers of apples and blueberries paid about \$10 million each. Pollination services helped support the production of these crops— which, in 2016, had a total production value of about \$5.2 billion for almonds, \$3.5 billion for apples, and \$720 million for blueberries. Over the same period, the number of honey-producing colonies grew by 14 percent.

UPDATED FOOD AND FARM FACTS BOOK AVAILABLE NOW

Audio with Food and Farm Facts editor Cyndie Shearing

Did you know that each American farm produces, on average, enough food and fiber for 165 people each year? That's one of the items featured in the new Food and Farm Facts book by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. The book offers consumers a look at facts about farming and food production. Editor of Food and Farm Facts, Cyndie Shearing of the American Farm Bureau Federation, says it helps answer a lot of questions consumers have about their food...tape

Cut #1 :21 OC:... "who grows it."

She says the book helps fulfill a need of providing consumers the information they want about their food...tape

Cut #2 :15 OC:... "farms and ranches."

The book, along with other resources, is available now...tape

Cut #3 :13 OC:...“order today.”

The book is available online on the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture website at www.agfoundation.org.