

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

China is threatening to retaliate against the U.S. over trade sanctions and a trade investigation, and that has U.S. agriculture on edge.

China's upset with U.S. sanctions against Chinese firms buying coal and other minerals from North Korea, and with a pending U.S. probe of China's intellectual property practices.

Beijing says the probe's "poured cold water" on improving trade relations, and it will "take all means necessary" to defend the interests of Chinese enterprises.

National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Kent Bacus...tape

Cut #1 _____ :20 OC:... "going on."

The U.S. pork industry, with a huge market in China, is also paying attention. But trade experts, including Bacus, think a trade war is unlikely, since both sides would suffer big economic damage...tape

Cut #2 _____ :20 OC:... "from trade."

And, while the U.S. runs a \$310 billion trade deficit with China, U.S. exports there are growing. The market is huge with some 1.4 billion people, and China has a growing middle-class that can afford U.S. commodities like beef and pork.

Secretary Zinke Submits National Monument Report

On Thursday, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke submitted to President Trump his report reviewing the status of national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act since 1996. The report was in response to an April

26 presidential Executive Order requesting a comprehensive evaluation of such monuments.

While Secretary Zinke is not proposing the elimination of any national monuments, he is recommending that the president shrink the boundaries of a handful of monuments.

As of press time, it is not clear which national monuments Secretary Zinke was proposing for boundary modification, nor was it clear specifically what actions Secretary Zinke recommended to effectuate the modifications. While the Department of the Interior has not yet made the report public, it did release a two-page summary of the process that guided the national monument review, which can be read [here](#).

On July 10, CCA submitted detailed comments to the Department of the Interior calling for the elimination or reduction in size of seven national monuments within the state of California. While it is not yet clear whether California's national monuments are among those Secretary Zinke recommends for reduction, CCA will continue to inform you of any news related to Secretary Zinke's report and will continue to fight to promote grazing on public lands, including those within national monuments.

Support EPA Proposal to Rescind 2015 WOTUS Rule

On July 27, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) formally released a proposed rule to rescind the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule, which threatened to greatly extend the agencies' regulatory jurisdiction and impose burdensome regulatory requirements upon ranchers and other landowners.

CCA strongly supports the proposal to rescind the 2015 Rule, and will file formal comments to that effect with the EPA prior to deadline, which this week was extended to September 27. Ranchers are encouraged to file comments supporting the 2015 Rule's withdrawal by clicking the "Comment Now!" button [here](#). The National Cattlemen's Beef Association has provided sample comments [here](#).

The move to rescind the 2015 WOTUS Rule comes after President Trump's February 28 Executive Order directing EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to rescind the rule and replace it with a definition of "Waters of the United States" that conforms to the more limited interpretation outlined by late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in *Rapanos v. United States*. Rescinding the 2015 Rule is the first step in that process; once the 2015 Rule is repealed, the EPA will likely give notice of a proposed rulemaking establishing a more limited interpretation of WOTUS.

In the interim, the proposed rulemaking seeks to re-codify the definition of WOTUS

that existed prior to the 2015 re-definition. Because the 2015 WOTUS Rule was stayed from implementation and enforcement by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in October 2015 in response to numerous lawsuits (including one filed by CCA), the proposed rule would essentially codify the status quo.

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

Governor Signs State Legislation, Includes Earmark to Repeal SRA Fee

Legislation signed by Governor Edmund "Jerry" Brown on July 26, 2017 will permanently repeal the current State Responsibility Area (SRA) fee, better described as the "fire tax". The tax is currently collected on residential structures and buildings located in the SRA boundary where emergency and first responder services are more commonly provided by the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE). CCA opposed the SRA fee when it was first proposed in a budget trailer bill several years ago. The tax sought to fill a vacuum in funding rather than put new firefighters and firefighting equipment on the ground. The legislation was also originally adopted with a majority vote, not a 2/3 vote, as required by law to enact new taxes.

The legislation calls for the loss of current funding generated by the SRA fee to be backfilled by funds raised by the state's cap-and-trade program. Both the cap-and-trade program as well as any statutory reference to the SRA fee will be permanently repealed in 2030 without separate legislative action.

Annual Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association Tour, Butte Valley | Aug. 26

The Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association is hosting its annual Fall Tour in Butte Valley on Aug. 26. During the morning, the tour will kick off at Plant Sciences Inc. in Dorris to hear from the owner who is also a cattle rancher in both Northern California and Oregon. Following the tour, there will be presentations and lunch at the Dorris Community Center where Kasey DeAtley, Ph.D. will speak about practical EPD use to get your herd where you want it and Jeff Stott, Ph.D. will provide an update on Foothill abortion and his pink eye research.

For more information, please contact Cari Koopmann Rivers via [email](#).

BQA Training at the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center | Sept. 23

The Tahoe County Cattlemen's Association, Sierra Foothill Research and Extension

Center and the Placer-Nevada-Sutter-Yuba UC Cooperative Extension Services will be hosting a Beef Quality Assurance workshop on Sept. 23 from 8 a.m. -2 p.m. The program will take place at the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center and cover a wide variety of topics including BQA, transportation, water quality self assessment and hands-on chute side demonstration.

Check back for a live link to register for this event.