

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

## **California Pigs and Cows Could Be Cage-Free**

**It was ten years ago that California passed cage-free laws for chickens, thanks to a campaign from the Humane Society of the U.S. Another HSUS-backed ballot initiative could go before California voters in 2018. The Sacramento Bee says the proposed "Prevention of Cruelty to Farm Animals Act" would set new rules for cage-free hens as well as set some strict limits on the confinement of calves and pigs. "Californians know that locking farm animals in tight confines for the duration of their lives is cruel and it compromises food safety," says HSUS CEO Wayne Pacelle. HSUS accuses poultry farmers of getting around the intent of Proposition Two by rearranging hen cages to comply with the density rules. Activists also claim that a poultry industry-friendly decision by the California Department of Food and Agriculture further took the legs out from under Prop Two. The proposed new measure would require that eggs produced in California come from cage-free hens that have one square foot of space apiece. All hens would be cage-free by 2021. It would also require veal to come from farms that don't lock calves in veal crates. Gestation crates for pigs would be outlawed by 2021.**

[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/Press\\_Releases/Press\\_Release.asp?PRnum=17-052](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/Press_Releases/Press_Release.asp?PRnum=17-052)

**CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TO  
DISCUSS FARMLAND  
CONSERVATION AT SEPTEMBER  
5th MEETING**



**SACRAMENTO, August 30, 2017 – The California State Board of Food and Agriculture will discuss farmland conservation issues at its upcoming meeting on September 5th in Sacramento. The meeting will be held from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm at the California Department of Food and Agriculture, 1220 N Street - Main Auditorium, Sacramento, CA 95814.**

**“California's farmland is an important resource that provides the foundation for agricultural sustainability as well as economic prosperity for our farmers, ranchers and rural communities,” said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. “Our farmland is an iconic part of California and contributes to a quality of life that all Californians enjoy.”**

**California has approximately 31 million acres of farmland and grazing land. From 1984-2012 more than 1.4 million acres have been removed from farmland use, 78 percent of these farmland conversions were to urban land use and 49 percent of the conversions were from prime farmland - considered the most productive land and soil in the state.**

Invited speakers for the meeting include: Kathryn Lyddan, California Department of Conservation; Suzanne Hague, California Strategic Growth Council; Chris Scheuring, California Farm Bureau Federation; Tim Snellings, Butte County Department of Development Services; Ed Thompson, Jr., American Farmland Trust; Nita Vail, California Rangeland Trust; Jeanne Merrill, California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN); and Scott Spear, Sequoia Riverlands Trust.

“Protecting our agricultural lands for future generations is a value that we all share,” said President Craig McNamara, California State Board of Food and Agriculture. “Ensuring that we have the policies in place to achieve this is a topic we will be discussing.”

The California State Board of Food and Agriculture advises the governor and the CDFA secretary on agricultural issues and consumer needs. The state board conducts forums that bring together local, state and federal government officials, agricultural representatives and citizens to discuss current issues of concern to California agriculture.

All meetings are open to the public and attendance is welcome.

Follow the board on Twitter at: [www.twitter.com/Cafood\\_agboard](http://www.twitter.com/Cafood_agboard)

## **Secretary Zinke Submits National Monument Report**

Last week, 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.

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.

## **Subscribe to PLC's *Daily Roundup***

The Public Lands Council (PLC) is the leading voice in Washington, D.C. for the West's public lands grazing permittees. CCA actively partners with PLC on a wide range of legislative, regulatory and legal issues facing California's public lands ranchers, including Endangered Species Act reform, wild horse management, forest planning, and many others.

When the federal legislature is in session, PLC sends out its *Daily Roundup*, providing daily insights into the actions of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture and other administration officials, updates on news of interest to grazing permittees, information on PLC's lobbying efforts, and more.

While the *Daily Roundup* will be most helpful to public land permittees, all CCA members are likely to find useful information in the email newsletter.

To subscribe to the Public Land Council's *Daily Update*, click [here](#).

## **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 has been 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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.

Those interested in attending can register [here](#).

