

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

DAIRY LABOR SHORTAGE: HOW IMMIGRATION POLICY PLAYS A ROLE

Audio with Peter Cole, Executive Director, Association Policy, Industry Affairs & Governance

The U.S. unemployment rate may currently be at record lows, but that's not the case for the nation's dairy producers. Many are still in need of workers who are willing and able to contribute to the future of milk production. It's an issue fraught with political, economic and cultural influences.

Peter Cole, policy expert with Holstein Association USA, explains why the dairy industry is struggling to find workers...tape

Cut #1 :14 OC:... "on a farm."

While non-farm employers seem to be luring away potential workers, the U.S. dairy industry has found another pool of willing and able farm labor: immigrants...tape

Cut #2 :15 OC:... "won't do."

While dairy producers understand and fully support efforts to stop illegal immigration, Cole says, improved regulations could benefit the dairy industry

GMO-Free Labeling Fear Based

The National Milk Producers Federation says manufactures are raising consumer fears with GMO-free labeling, along with fears over synthetic animal-growth hormones and high fructose corn syrup. The federation has launched a "Peel Back the Label" campaign as 70 percent of American consumers look at food labels when making purchasing decisions, and says some labels are misleading. For instance, one company has labeled its table salt as "GMO-free," when it could never have been GMO in the first place because salt has no genes to modify. USA Today reports that similar marketing practices have taken place with dairy products. Additional products with mislabeling, according to the Federation, include tomatoes, peanut

butter, and even bottled water. Find more about the campaign online at www.peelbackthelabel.org.

CCA Action Alert: Urge Assemblymembers to Vote NO on SB 49

It is imperative that you contact your elected member of the California State Assembly immediately and request they vote "NO" on SB 49 (de Leon), the California Environmental, Public Health and Worker's Defense Act of 2017. SB 49 is an unnecessary and potentially detrimental bill and is likely to harm California businesses, farmers and ranchers if passed. Specifically, the bill:

- Circumvents the public process by requiring California environmental agencies to amend their regulations to ensure they meet or are more restrictive than federal regulations that were in place as of January 19, 2017. Under this example, a state agency can amend their current regulations to make them more restrictive pursuant to this bill, completely bypassing any requirement to first provide public notice, seek public comment and account for the concerns of the regulated community.
- Amendments to the bill were made today (9/8/2017) that requires that any species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act not currently listed as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) to be immediately listed under CESA if the species is down listed from endangered to threatened, delisted or a 4(d) rule is applied which allows take for ongoing agricultural activities. Currently, a petition to list a species under CESA must go before the California Fish and Game Commission for deliberation. It is unclear what, if any, flexibility the Fish and Game Commission will have under the bill to determine a species is not warranted for listing under CESA.
- The bill is completely unnecessary as California already has similar state environmental laws that in many cases already go beyond federal law.

The best opportunity to stop this bill from moving forward is on the Assembly floor. The bill could be heard as early as Monday but must be heard in the Assembly no later than ***Friday, September 15.***

It's imperative you contact your Assemblymember now and urge them to vote "no" on SB 49 (de Leon). Find your legislator here.

Department of the Interior Seeks to Streamline NEPA

On August 15, President Trump issued an Executive Order which requires, among other things, "that agencies apply NEPA [the National Environmental Policy Act] in a manner that reduces unnecessary burdens and delays as much as possible." The Department of Interior seems to have taken that directive seriously, with Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt issuing an August 31 memo aimed at streamlining NEPA analyses conducted by the agency.

The memo directs that environmental impact statements conducted under NEPA "shall not be more than 150 pages or 300 pages for unusually complex projects," and further directs that agency officials should aim to complete an EIS within one year. Should Interior agencies succeed in implementing the directives outlined in the memo, it would be a welcome change from the bureaucratic quagmire that all-too-often accompanies NEPA analysis.

While the Interior memorandum may signal good news for public lands permittees on Bureau of Land Management lands or within the National Park Service (such as ranchers at the Point Reyes National Seashore), it is unclear whether the Department of Agriculture, which oversees the US Forest Service, will seek to similarly mandate such measures to streamline NEPA.

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 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.

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](#).