

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

European Court Rules Against GMO Ban

The European Court of Justice ruled that member state governments cannot ban the cultivation of genetically engineered crops in the absence of scientific evidence that they are a human health risk. American Soybean Association President Ron Moore said the ruling is a comforting one from a scientific standpoint. "The Court's decision reverses what the EU calls the 'precautionary principle,' their long-standing default argument that without proof that a product is unsafe, unverified concerns about safety are sufficient to ban either importation or cultivation," says Moore. "Over the past 20 years, this unscientific approach has led to a patchwork of unscientific restrictions on EU imports and cultivation of biotech crops by member states." Those restrictions or prohibitions were put in place in spite of the products being approved by the European Food Safety Authority, as well as numerous other food safety and global health agencies. Moore said the Soybean Association is happy with the ruling and hopeful it will lead to similar science-based stances on genetic engineering in Europe during the years ahead.

- [Panel Hears About Some Problems in SNAP Program and Actions to Solve Them](#)

Broadcast Date:

Thu, September 14, 2017

A Senate panel heard Thursday about some problems in how some states are running the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and how those problems are being addressed. (Gary Crawford, Gil Harden and Brandon Lipps)

Plant-Based Food Sales Up 8 Percent from 2016

The Plant-Based Foods Association and the Good Food Institute released data this week showing that the total market for plant-based food sales is over \$3.1 billion. The data shows the growth in plant-based food sales at 8.1 percent over last year. Plant-based dairy alternatives are a fast-growing segment, with 20 percent growth and topping \$700 million in sales over the past year. The category excludes milks but does include cheese, yogurts, and ice cream. Yogurt sales jumped 56 percent over last year. The plant-based milk category sales are up 3.1 percent from 2016. Over the same period, Nielsen Research, which did the study, shows cow milk sales down 5 percent. The findings come as a bill sits before Congress which would prohibit plant-based food marketers and manufacturers from using words like "milk," "cheese," or "yogurt," even with the appropriate modifiers like "soy," "almond," and "dairy-free." The Nielsen Research data even showed that the plant-based meat sector grew by six percent over last year. Bruce Friedrich, Good Food Institute Executive Director, calls it a revolution that's taking place in the plant-based meat space.