

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

- [Retail Beef Prices Falling](#)

For the second year in a row shoppers may see falling retail beef prices. (Gary Crawford and Shayle Shagam)

U.S. Has First NAFTA Finalization Target

The United States now has a tentative timeline to complete the North American Free Trade Agreement negotiations. The Trump administration notified Congress Friday evening of expected changes to trade remedy law as a result of the ongoing trade talks, according to Politico. Notification is required at least 180 days before a trade agreement is signed, under the trade promotion authority law. The House Ways and Means Committee confirmed it received the notification. Trade promotion authority also requires the administration to give Congress another notification 90 days before signing the agreement and to publish the text of the pact 60 days before signing. The timeline puts March 22nd as the first day a new NAFTA could be signed. However, to have the deal ready to sign, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer would have to reach a deal in December and publish the text in January.

WEEK ENDING: September 24, 2017

RELEASED: September 25, 2017

WEATHER

Fall arrived across the Golden State last week, with cooler temperatures, a wetter pattern, and even some snow at high elevations in the mountains.

Widespread showers fell on most parts of the State last week, the noteworthy exceptions being the deserts and the coastal hills between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The heaviest rains fell across the far northwestern mountains.

Cooling temperatures in the mountains led to the first snows of the autumn season at elevations above 6,000 feet last week. By midweek, between six to eight inches of heavy and wet snow fell. Warm afternoon temperatures and warm ground temperatures resulted in near-total snowmelt. Mountain Shasta and the Lassen Volcanic Park received two to four inches of snowfall. The most extensive and thickest snowfields are currently on the peak of Shasta (up to 1 foot in places), sheltered areas in the Lassen Volcanic Park (up to 1 foot), and at elevations over 7,000 feet in the central Sierras (up to 6 inches).

Temperature highs were in the 40s to 60s in the mountains, 60s to 70s along the coast, 70s to 80s in the valley, and 80s to 90s in the desert. Temperature lows were in the 20s to 40s in the mountains, 40s to 50s along the coast, and 40s to 60s in the valley and the desert.

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa continued to be cut, and baled. **Sorghum** for silage was in various stages of development. **Corn** silage continued to be harvested. **Cotton** bolls continued to open. **Safflower** was drying in the fields.

FRUIT CROPS

Stone fruit harvest was drawing to a close. Wine, table, and raisin **grape** harvest was ongoing. Raisin grapes continued to be placed on trays for drying. Finished raisin trays were rolled up for pickup. **Asian Pears**, **pears**, **figs**, and **pomegranates** were harvested. **Kiwifruit** in Tulare County were nearing maturity. **Cherry** orchards were pruned. **Persimmons** continued to gain size and coloring. Valencia **Orange** harvest was winding down for the year. **Lemons** were harvested and packed. Some orange groves were pushed

out to make way for new plantings. Early **apple** varieties were harvested. **Olive** harvest began in Tulare County.

NUT CROPS

The **almond** harvest continued. **Walnut** orchard floors were being prepared for harvest and sprayed for husk fly and Navel orangeworm. Walnut harvest began in some areas. Growth regulator sprays were applied to some walnut groves to promote development. **Pistachio** harvest continued.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In San Joaquin County, harvest continued for processing **tomatoes**, **honeydew melons**, **watermelons**, **cantaloupes**, **pumpkins**, **peppers**, and **sweet corn**. Farmers' Market vegetables continued to be harvested and offered for sale. In Monterey County, the end of the harvest season approached with shorter days and warm and windy weather. The produce quality was decreasing with increased pest and less-than-ideal production pressures. Head **lettuce** showed seed-stem, wind damage, and tipburn due to weather. Harvesting and shipping remained active throughout the week. In Fresno County, tomato harvest was almost done with low yields reported. Lettuce seed harvest was finished. **Carrots** were planted. Soil was prepared for planting organic **garlic**. In Tulare County, tomatoes, **cucumbers**, **squash**, and peppers were picked by certified producers and sold at the local Farmers' Markets. Yellow **squash**, **zucchini**, **eggplant**, Bell peppers, green chili peppers, and cucumbers were harvested and shipped domestically. Fall vegetables were planted and developing well. Pumpkins were prepared for harvest.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated and foothill rangeland was reported to be in poor to very poor condition as is normal for the end of summer. Rain in the northern parts of the state will help range and dry pasture begin to recover. Supplemental feeding of cattle continued. Some bees were moved out of state as pollination needs were wrapping up for the year.