

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

NAFTA Talks to Return to Washington, D.C.

The North American Free Trade Agreement renegotiation effort will return to Washington, D.C. this month for the fourth round of official talks. The negotiations will resume October 11th through the 15th, following a round of talks in Canada last month. Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland said progress was made in the most recent meetings "on a number of bread-and-butter trade issues." Meanwhile, the U.S. has yet to introduce a proposal to increase protections for seasonal and perishable produce. The tabled issue is being closely watched by agriculture groups, including the National Pork Producers Council, which says the proposal could provoke America's NAFTA partners to push for mechanisms that make it easier to restrict U.S. farm exports. By U.S. law and official notices to Congress, the earliest a deal can be agreed upon and concluded is March of next year. But, Forbes speculates that would be too close to the midterm election cycle, as a comment period would extend into September 2018, even at the fastest pace, likely putting the potential final approval of a new NAFTA in 2019.

Trump on KORUS to Lighthizer: Call Me a "Crazy Guy"

Online source Axios reports that President Donald Trump told U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to portray him as a "crazy guy" during the upcoming U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement meeting. South Korea will host the meeting with Lighthizer this week to discuss "ways to move forward" with KORUS. The meeting is the second on KORUS, following discussion between Korea and U.S. trade officials last month in Washington, D.C. In a conversation with cabinet members last month, Axios says Trump told Lighthizer "you've got 30 days," to get conditions, or he would withdraw from the agreement. But, in the discussion, Trump went further, and said:

"You tell them, 'This guy's so crazy he could pull out any minute.'" Trump followed up with "by the way, I might," if the U.S. doesn't get trade concessions from Korea. According to a USTR fact sheet, Korea is currently the fifth largest U.S. agricultural export market, with beef leading the way, followed by lemons, shelled almonds, cheese, cherries and wine and beer.

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WEATHER

A warmer and drier pattern returned last week. A dry week prevailed across the State with no sites reporting widespread measurable precipitation. A few isolated sprinkles were associated with localized marine stratus events between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Warm afternoon highs resulted in near total snowmelt at elevations below 10,000 feet. **Local snowfields, both a remnant from last winter's snowpack as well as the snows that fell during the previous week, still exist at elevations above 10,000 feet,** most notably in the Stanislaus National Forest, the Lassen Volcanoes National Park, and the peak of Mount Shasta. **Deepest snow cover is estimated to be near one foot.**

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

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa fields continued to be cut and baled. **Sorghum** fields were being harvested. **Corn** silage continued to be harvested. **Cotton** bolls continued to develop; fields were being defoliated and having borders knocked down in preparation for harvest. **Black-eyed beans** continued to be harvested.

FRUIT CROPS

Stone fruit harvest was slowing down as the season draws to a close. Gypsum and potash were applied to harvested stone fruit orchards. Some wine, table and raisin **grapes** were harvested. Finished raisin trays were rolled up for pickup. **Asian Pears, pears, figs, and pomegranates** were harvested. **Kiwifruit** harvest began. **Persimmons** continued to gain size and coloring. Citrus packing houses were getting ready for the new navel **orange** season. **Lemons** were harvested and packed. Some orange groves were pushed out to make way for new plantings. **Apples** were harvested. **Olive** harvest was underway.

NUT CROPS

The **almond** harvest was winding down across the state. **Walnut** harvest was underway. **Pistachio** harvest continued.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Colusa County, the **tomato** harvest wound down while the **honeydew** harvest continued. In Sacramento County, the tomato harvest was in full swing. In San Joaquin County, Farmers' Market vegetables were harvested and offered for sale. Fall field work and ground preparation were done. In Monterey County, the Salinas Valley season wound down with typical fluctuations of cooler and warmer cycles. Production and cultivation were still going strong and late season crops were planted. In Fresno County, **jalapenos** were harvested. **Carrots** were recovering from heat damage. Soil was prepared for planting organic **garlic** and **onions**. In Tulare County, tomatoes, **sweet corn, okra, cucumbers, squash, and peppers** were picked by certified producers. Commercial plantings of yellow squash, **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 were reported to be in poor to very poor condition. Supplemental feeding of cattle continued. Some cattle were moved down from high elevation range.

