

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

Wildfire Impact to Linger for California Wine Country

Wildfires that spread through California's wine country will leave a lasting mark on the industry and its tourism. The Sacramento Bee newspaper reports that the state's wine industry in Napa and Sonoma counties faced the wildfires at the worst time of the year possible, as fall is a prime time for visitors, where tourism is a \$3.2 billion industry annually. Wine country has bounced back quickly from previous disasters, including a 2014 earthquake and flooding a decade ago. But experts say the deadliest set of wildfires in California history could prove challenging for tourism promoters. On a positive note for the industry, a vast majority of grapes had been harvested by the time the fires broke out, and vineyard owners were able to truck their grapes and unfinished wines to other parts of Northern California for safekeeping. Just a handful of wineries have been outright destroyed, and even their owners were talking about getting back on their feet soon, according to the newspaper.

- [A Slight Uptick in Grocery Store Food Prices](#)

After a decline in overall grocery store food prices last year, what's happening with prices so far this year. (Gary Crawford and Annemarie Kuhns)

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER

WEEK ENDING: October 15, 2017

RELEASED: October 16, 2017

WEATHER

A drier pattern persisted during the prior week. Most stations reported little to no precipitation across the State. Some precipitation was reported along the northern coast. Some snow-melt occurred in the afternoon hours along the northeast mountain region.

Temperature highs were in the 60s to 70s in the mountains, 70s to 90s along the coast, and 80s to 90s in the valley and the desert. Temperature lows were in the 10s to 40s in the mountains, 30s to 40s along the coast, in the valley, and the desert.

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa fields continued to be irrigated, cut, and baled. Sorghum fields were being harvested. Corn silage continued to be harvested. Cotton was being harvested for lint and seed. Black-eyed beans continued to be harvested.

FRUIT CROPS

Late season peaches, nectarines, and plums continued to be harvested. Some old stone fruit orchards were being pushed out. Soil amendments were being applied to some stone fruit orchards. **Wine and table grape harvest continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Napa and Sonoma County wild fires were impacting some field activities and the smoke could taint unharvested grapes.** Thompson seedless grapes were being rolled and picked up. Pear and pomegranate harvesting continued. Persimmons were coloring. Most citrus packing houses continued to get ready for the new navel orange season. Citrus orchards were being skirted and trimmed for the coming season. Some orange groves were being pushed out to make way for new plantings. Finger limes were harvested. The olive crop continued to be harvested.

NUT CROPS

The almond harvest continued to slow down across the state. Walnut and Pistachio harvests continued.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Fresno County, jalapenos continued to be harvested. Carrots were recovering from heat damage. Soil was prepared for planting organic garlic and onions. In Tulare County, certified producers were picking tomatoes, sweet corn, okra, cucumbers, squash, and peppers. 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. In Tulare County, certified producers were picking tomatoes, sweet corn, okra, cucumbers, squash, and peppers. Commercial plantings of yellow fall vegetables were developing well and some early varieties were almost ready for harvest.

Strawberries continued to grow. Pumpkin patches look very mature and should be ready for picking soon.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated and foothill rangeland was reported to be in poor to very poor condition. Supplemental feeding of cattle continued. Cattle were moved down from high-elevation range. Sheep were being moved to Imperial Valley. Northern California wildfires burned rangeland and forced evacuations of large animals.