

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

**RELEASE IMMEDIATE**

Oct. 27, 2017

**Contact: Dave Kranz**

**WOLF PACK MAKES FIRST CONFIRMED LIVESTOCK KILL**

California has experienced its first confirmed livestock depredation by wolves since the gray wolf returned to the state in 2011.

A livestock loss determination report issued Oct. 20 by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed that one week earlier, Oct. 13, the Lassen Pack of wolves killed a cow on private property in western Lassen County. Data from a GPS tracking device worn by the breeding female of the Lassen Pack—known as LAS01F—confirms the wolf was present at the site for at least six hours on the night the 600-pound yearling heifer was killed.

According to the CDFW report, “wolf tracks were observed within the area,” including “kick marks and disturbed ground consistent with a struggle.” It was evident that wolves had killed the heifer, the report said, because of the location and nature of the bite marks, many of which were more than an inch deep.

“Frustratingly, current California law provides ranchers and CDFW very few tools for deterring and managing wolves,” California Cattlemen’s Association President Dave Daley said. “Under current law, we have extremely limited options for protecting our livestock.”

Livestock groups also criticized CDFW for declining to announce the wolf kill.

“It’s important for Californians to understand the full implications of the wolf’s return,” California Farm Bureau Federation President Paul Wenger said. “CDFW has been more than willing to notify the public when it identifies a new pack or when wolves have pups. People need to recognize wolves not as cute woodland creatures but as predators that kill.”

CFBF and CCA have sued the California Fish and Game Commission to overturn its decision to list the gray wolf as an endangered species in California, which would allow more flexibility in wolf management.

Although the Oct. 13 incident marked the first confirmed livestock kill by a wolf, suspected kills occurred on four other occasions between Sept. 19 and Sept. 30, each reported by the same Lassen County rancher whose cow suffered the confirmed kill this month. CDFW did not confirm any of those incidents, but GPS data and eyewitness reports place the Lassen Pack near the cattle at the time.

The California Farm Bureau Federation works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of more than 48,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of more than 6.2 million Farm Bureau members. The California Cattlemen’s Association represents more than 1,700 cattle ranchers in California and has been serving cattle ranchers and beef producers since 1917

- [The Advantages of Big Data in Dairy Farming](#)

Broadcast Date:

Fri, October 27, 2017

One dairy farmer says big data technologies are improving his operation.  
(Rod Bain and Joe Kelsay)

### **New Film Discusses GMO Misinformation**

**The maker of a film called Food Evolution, supported by the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance, says his documentary shows how easily misinformation can overwhelm objective analysis. Scott Hamilton Kennedy is an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker who produced the movie. Kennedy says the GMO story shows how important it is to use science to make decisions. "I was very honored that the film could defend scientists and farmers in a way that hadn't been done in a long time," he says. "It's been a great honor to put those people on film and to see their responses to the film." Food Evolution was commissioned by the Institute of Food Technologists and described as an independent investigation into biotechnology. Kennedy says the film is being criticized by a group of people he calls "fringe activists" who oppose all GMOs. However, he's confident that the film is scientifically accurate. "We stand by the evidence in the film and the response to the film is validating that," Kennedy adds. Food Evolution is currently available on the streaming service Hulu.**