

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

H-2A Minimum Wage for Guest Workers Likely to Rise in Several States

The minimum wage for H-2A guest workers is likely to rise in several states during 2018. The National Ag Statistics Service surveys the prevailing wages of field and livestock workers in different regions across the country. The NASS calculations are normally adopted by the U.S. Department of Labor in December as the Adverse Effect Wage Rates for the coming year. The AEWR is above state minimum wages and is intended to prevent domestic wages from being impacted by an influx of foreign workers. For example, the new minimum wage for H-2A visa guest workers in Washington and Oregon will likely rise over five percent to \$14.12 per hour. While the wage is higher, the region ranking slips from the highest minimum wage to the second-highest in the nation. Hawaii is number one at \$14.37 per hour. California's wage is projected to rise almost five percent to \$13.18. Idaho and Wyoming will likely drop three cents to \$11.63. Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina are the top three states in the U.S. in terms of the overall number of H-2A guest workers, with Washington and California rounding out the top five states.

There's lots of talk about tax reform, crop yields, and commodity prices these days, but little about a 2018 farm bill. And it now appears formal writing of a new farm bill may have to wait 'til next year. Earlier in the year, there was lots of talk about a new farm bill...tape

Cut 1 :16 OC..."negotiating it"

That was August. Two months later, Democrat Debbie Stabenow's comments were followed by Ag Chair Pat Roberts on the difficulty in moving USDA nominations...tape

Cut 2 :07 OC..."everybody's attention"

It's now the end of November and the Senate and House Ag committees have still not written a farm bill, despite behind-the-scenes staff work. Longtime Senator Chuck Grassley says part of the delay is also "budget problems" ...tape

Cut 3 :11 OC..."ever been"

But with just three or four-weeks left before Christmas, the original hope of getting producers a farm bill this year...tape

Cut 4 :06 OC..."them certainty"

That may now be just a fleeting hope, as 2018 rapidly approaches.



Dean's Message, November 2017:

As our thoughts turn to spending time with our friends and loved ones over Thanksgiving, I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude to all who help make the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences an outstanding place to work, learn, and discover—faculty, staff, students, volunteers, friends and alumni.

[Read more from Dean Dillard](#)



Genome project will help restore health of redwood forests

Some trees are better at surviving drought, fire, pests and diseases than other trees. By identifying the genes responsible for these adaptations, scientists can compile a scalable database that will aid resource managers as they plan long-term conservation strategies, particularly as the climate changes.

[*UC Davis conifer sequencing is key*](#)



Study measures parental stress and child development in Mexican-origin families

A UC Davis expert in human development is weighing the unique, daily challenges and stresses that affect young parents and babies of Mexican origin in California. The research is funded by the National Institutes of Health and could help improve well-being in thousands of families.

[Risk and resilience](#)



Viticulture and enology grad student

Isabelle Straka launches wine label

When it comes to hands-on learning, Isabelle Straka doesn't limit herself to the classroom. The second-year master's student in viticulture and enology puts newly acquired skills to the test in producing her own wine label.

[A winemaker's tale](#)



New stem–rust resistance may halt worldwide wheat epidemic

UC Davis wheat geneticist Jorge Dubcovsky and his team have identified a gene that enables resistance to a new, devastating strain of stem rust, a fungal disease that is hampering wheat production throughout Africa and Asia and threatening food security worldwide.

[Wheat gene discovery](#)



UC Davis 1st in the world for plant and animal sciences

UC Davis scores first in programs for plant and animal sciences in *U.S. News and World Report's* “Best Global Universities” report issued October 24th.

[On top of the world](#)



Alison Van Eenennaam, Roger Chetelat and Charles Brummer named AAAS

Fellows

Three CA&ES faculty members are among this year's group of new Fellows in the American Association for the Advancement of Science—Alison Van Eenennaam, Roger Chetelat and Charles Brummer. They will be recognized during the society's annual meeting next February in Austin, Texas.

[Elected by their peers](#)



Professor Paul Gepts honored for work on beans and crop evolution

Plant science professor Paul Gepts, who leads the UC Davis bean breeding program, has been selected as “distinguished scientist” for the 2017 Agropolis Louis Malassis International Scientific Prize for Agriculture and Food. Gepts and other prizewinners will join a roundtable discussion in Milan, Italy during the 8th International Forum on Food and Nutrition in December.

[*Exemplary innovative research*](#)