

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

Coalition Wants Injunction Against CA Glyphosate-Label Requirement

The National Association of Wheat Growers led a coalition of ag groups asking for a court mandate to stop California's new labeling requirements for glyphosate. The groups are citing irreparable harm to farmers, consumers, and the nation's agricultural economy. The groups are asking for a preliminary injunction against California's Prop 65 regulation, which requires labeling any product that may contain glyphosate, such as commodities. NAWG President Gordon Stoner says the requirement will immediately cause irreparable harm to farmers and the national economy. "We're asking the court for an injunction to immediately halt this action," he says, "because a significant number of wheat growers use glyphosate and requiring these false and misleading labels will fundamentally change the way farming is done in America." The coalition says their reputations will be significantly damaged if they're forced to falsely label their products. They also point out that the agricultural production process is already regulated by the federal government to ensure consumer safety. The Prop 65 mandate was based on flawed research by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which declared glyphosate as a probable carcinogen. The IARC members concealed and distorted data that showed glyphosate is a safe product.

- [Secretary Perdue: NAFTA Deals Will Come at Last Minute](#)

Broadcast Date:

Fri, December 8, 2017

Secretary Perdue says he expects NAFTA negotiations to go down to the wire, but that deals will come at the last minute. (Stephanie Ho and USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue)

December 8, 2017

CONTACT: Pam Kan-Rice, (510) 206-3476, pam.kanrice@ucanr.edu

Beginning farmers invited to specialty crop training on Bay Area's urban edge

Urban Edge Sustainable Farming is open to all beginning farmers, no experience required

Aspiring farmers are invited to apply for [Urban Edge Sustainable Farming](#), a program that will expand the range of opportunities for beginning farmers in California by leveraging 550 acres of prime, protected East Bay farmland for training, farm business incubation and long-term leasing.

As baby boomer farmers retire, a new generation of farmers is needed to carry on the work.

"Small and mid-size farmers are vital to the strength of our local communities and the security of our food supply," said Alli Cecchini, First Generation Farmers executive director. "If there are no farmers to keep fertile land in production, it will be sold to developers and we'll never get it back."

[First Generation Farmers](#) received a grant from the [USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program](#) to launch Urban Edge Sustainable Farming as a formal training and incubator program that combines classroom-style instruction with hands-on field training. The program is designed to provide beginning specialty crop farmers with the core agricultural production skills, business knowledge and the confidence they need to establish viable farm businesses.

To provide science-based training, the women-led nonprofit farm located in Brentwood, 55 miles northeast of San Francisco, is partnering with UC Cooperative Extension in Contra Costa County.

"It's a very nice mix of practical application and applied science," said Janet Caprile, who recently retired after 30-plus years as a UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor. "It's very hands-on approach to education – more like an apprenticeship program. I've signed on to present."

Urban Edge Sustainable Farming is a full-time, nine-month residency. In 2018, the course will run from Feb. 5 through Nov. 5, with a one-week break in early July. Beginning farmers will live on site in dorm-style housing for an immersive, cooperative learning experience. The curriculum is designed and delivered by First Generation Farmers and professional instructors from the National Center for Appropriate Technology and UC Cooperative Extension. Participants will also learn from working alongside the Cecchini family — successful, fourth-generation farmers who are bridging agricultural tradition with adaptation to 21st century practices and market demands.

The training covers a wide range of topics, including composting, organic practices, greenhouse management, pest and disease management, healthy soil management, cover

crops and crop rotation, biodynamic farming, crop planning, food safety and handling, marketing strategies, financial record-keeping and business planning. First Generation Farmers will introduce participants to regional direct and wholesale markets.

"What UESF [Urban Edge Sustainable Farming] offers beginning farmers is unique in California: an opportunity to farm on historic farmland, in close connection with a traditional farm family, in a changing farming community on the edge of a major and expanding urban market," said Poppy Davis, independent ag business and policy consultant and research professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Urban Edge Sustainable Farming is open to all applicants, but the program prioritizes admission for beginning farmers with limited resources, military veterans, and those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, including women, members of the LGBTQ community, people of color, immigrants and refugees. Because a diverse population of farmers makes for a stronger and more resilient farming community, the program aims to support farmers who often experience significant systemic barriers to starting their enterprise.

Up to 15 beginning farmers can be accommodated in the first cohort and applications will be accepted until the cohort is full. Applicants must be 18 years old and previous farm experience is not required. Tuition for the program is \$4,000 and includes food and lodging. For more information and to apply, visit <https://firstgenerationfarmers.org/uesf>.

US Senate Votes to Pass Comprehensive Tax Reform Legislation

Late last Friday night into early Saturday morning, the US Senate voted 51-49 to pass comprehensive tax reform legislation.

Some provisions of note include:

- **Death Tax-** The death tax exclusion is doubled to \$10 million for individuals and \$20 million for couples, beginning in 2018. Full step-up continues as is. The exemption is also indexed to inflation, resulting in the individual exemption increasing to \$11.2 million in 2018.
- **Bonus Depreciation-** 100% bonus depreciation is allowed on all new farm assets until December 31, 2022. After 2022, this percentage reduces by 20% each year until bonus depreciation is eliminated.
- **Interest Deductions-** Interest expense is allowed for all farm operations with gross receipts under \$15 million. If revenues exceed this amount, producers can continue deducting interest capped at 30% of modified income. Language was maintained that will allow farming operations with gross receipts in excess of \$15 million to elect to deduct 100% of interest expense, and in

exchange will be forced to use longer depreciation lives/ cannot take bonus depreciation.

- Net Operating Loss (NOL)- Farm net operating losses are allowed to be carried back for 2 years instead of the current 5 years. Also, you can only offset an NOL carryforward against 80% of your income beginning in 2023. From 2018-2022 you can only offset 90% of your current income.

CCA will continue to urge a full, permanent repeal of the death tax and will continue to monitor the progress of this rapidly moving tax legislation.

Cattlemen Respond to National Monument Reductions

The California Cattlemen's Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Public Lands Council applauded the White House's plan to reduce the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. The decision-which follows an extensive review of monument designations by the Department of Interior- is a clear win for rural communities who have suffered the consequences of egregious federal overreach.

"Previous administrations abused the power of the Antiquities Act, designating huge swaths of land as national monuments without any public input or review," said Dave Eliason, president of the Public Lands Council. "Rural communities in Utah and across the West have paid the price. Sweeping designations locked up millions of acres of land with the stroke of a pen, undermining local knowledge and decimating rural economies."

"We are grateful that today's action will allow ranchers to resume their role as responsible stewards of the land and drivers of rural economies," said Craig Uden, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "Going forward, it is critical that we reform the Antiquities Act to ensure that those whose livelihoods and communities depend on the land have a voice in federal land management decisions."

Wildfire Disaster Assistance Programs Available to Ranchers

Our thoughts continue to be with those affected by California wildfires. Various federal government programs exist to provide disaster assistance for those who have been impacted by wildfires. Although your attention is no doubt focused on the situation at hand, it's important to note that several of the disaster assistance programs have initial notification deadlines that must be met in order to be eligible for funding.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to reimburse producers up to 75% of the market value of animals lost due to adverse weather conditions. Adverse weather conditions under LIP include wildfires. All classes of cattle are eligible for reimbursement including cows, bulls and calves. For 2017, a claim for a bull is paid out at \$1,350.34, a cow at \$1,038.73 and non-adult cattle (calves) from \$471.22 per head to \$1,001.12 per head depending on weight.

In order to be eligible to receive payment under LIP, a producer must notify their local county Farm Service Administration (FSA) of their intent to seek a claim within 30 days of the loss. A final claim must be submitted within 90 days of informing the county FSA office of the loss and the final claim must also be made within the same calendar year as the loss. Documentation will be requested by the county FSA office to verify the claim including any photographs that can be made available documenting the loss or the impact of the fire, records to prove ownership, etc.

A fact sheet about the Livestock Indemnity Program can be found [here](#).

Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The NAP program is a federal disaster insurance program that enables ranchers who have applied for coverage to receive compensation for a loss of forage due to drought or other natural disasters like wildfire. In order to be eligible to receive payments under NAP, a rancher must have previously enrolled in the program with their county FSA office and paid the service fee.

If you are currently enrolled in NAP and you've experienced forage loss due to fire, you may be eligible for a claim. Producers must report a loss to their local county FSA office within 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurring by completing a "Notice of Loss & Application for Payment" form. The form is available at your local FSA office.

A fact sheet about the Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program can be found [here](#).

Emergency Conservation Program

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) is a program administered through your local county FSA office that assists ranchers with fence construction and repairing other rangeland infrastructure that may have been lost or damaged due to a natural disaster. Ranchers are eligible to receive up to 75% of the cost to implement the project. Funds are dispersed by USDA to county FSA offices as they are available and requested so please contact your county FSA office immediately to help demonstrate the need to request federal funds for local restoration projects.

A fact sheet about the Emergency Conservation Program can be found [here](#).

Environmental Quality Incentive Program

If projects to repair or replace rangeland infrastructure lost due to the fire are not eligible for assistance under other federal disaster assistance programs, ranchers can look to fund projects under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). EQIP is not a program built or intended to respond to natural disasters so it may not be preferred for addressing immediate needs. Applications for projects can be taken by your NRCS representative at your local County FSA office. Please be aware, approval for projects are subject to several pre-established deadlines throughout the year.