

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

President Trump Addresses AFBF Convention

Audio with U.S. President Donald Trump

President Donald Trump addressed the 99th American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention Monday, speaking on tax cuts and regulatory reform, along with a brief mention of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the farm bill, telling Farm Bureau members he supports passage of an on-time farm bill that includes crop insurance.

Trump used the appearance to sign two presidential orders expanding access to broadband internet in rural America.

But, as Farm Bureau members spent part of the convention sporting "I Support NAFTA" button-pins, Trump made a small mention of NAFTA, saying his administration is working to renegotiate NAFTA to make the agreement better for agriculture...tape

Cut #1 :17 OC:... "as we speak."

Trump touted the just-passed tax reform and the relief he says it will bring to farmers and ranchers. He pointed to the estate tax changes, doubling the exemption, that he says will help keep farms in the family...tape

Cut #2 :17 OC:... "in the family."

In flaunting his work on reducing federal regulations, President Trump told Farm Bureau members that the administration is working to end the regulatory "assault" on farmers' way of life. Trump says his administration is working to end regulations on farmers because they are the future of our nation...tape

Cut #3 :35 OC:... "United States."

Trump also commented on his work to bring a better transportation system to rural America, along with comments on work fighting the opioid epidemic. Commenting on the "building the wall," Trump met a mixed crowd reaction... tape

Cut #4 :14 OC:... "build the wall (crowd fade)."

Trump called farmers the basis of society, and true friends of liberty, concluding his speech saying "farm country is god's country."

George H.W. Bush was the last president to address the AFBF Annual Convention in 1992 in Kansas City, and before that, in 1990 in Orlando.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER
WEEK ENDING: January 7, 2018
RELEASED: January 8, 2018**

WEATHER

At the beginning of last week, most of the State experienced mild temperatures and mostly dry conditions. At midweek a frontal system brought periodic rainfall and thunderstorms to the northern and central regions of the state, higher elevations received some snow. As the frontal system steadily pushed inland, precipitation slowly tapered off and slightly cooler, drier conditions arrived. Southern California experienced dry conditions last week with above normal temperatures.

Temperature highs ranged in the 50s to 60s in the mountains, 60s to 70s in the valley, and 60s to 80s along the coast and in the desert. Temperature lows were between 10s and 40s in the mountains, and 20s to 40s in the desert, and 30s to 40s in the valley and along the coast.

FIELD CROPS

Fields that were planted earlier in the season had signs of good growth but most fields were irrigated due to the lack of rain to maintain growth. Winter forage crops, such as wheat, barley, other cereal grains and forage mixes continued to be planted and seed shipments received. Irrigation was still necessary to maintain growth of those plantings that have germinated. Alfalfa went dormant, and fields were treated with herbicides or grazed by sheep.

FRUIT CROPS

Pruning dormant stone fruit started to reach completion. Persimmons continued to be harvested. Some older, poorly producing orchards and vineyards were removed and prepared for replanting. Wine grapes were pruned and tied, along with having herbicides applied. Some growers prepared to apply winter dormant sprays. The Navel orange harvest continued. Pomelos were harvested. Olive growers continued to prune groves. Strawberry fields continued to thrive.

NUT CROPS

Winter shake for almonds finished. Pruning continued in nut orchards. Pistachios, almonds, walnuts, and pecans continued to be packed and shipped primarily to foreign markets. Some older orchards were pushed out and the ground was prepped for planting.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Winter vegetables were being harvested. Some fields were being prepared and planted with addition winter vegetable crops. Lettuce continued to grow. Garlic and onion planting continued. Harvested for winter greens such as cabbage, chard, collard greens, kale, parsley, and daikon continued. Head and leaf lettuce has been planted for the spring 2018 crop. Broccoli, celery, and spinach continued to grow nicely. Asparagus fields were shredded in preparation for spring growth. Lettuce and arugula seed were exported to foreign marketplaces. Tomato beds were prepared. The carrot planting was ongoing, while the fall carrots have not been harvested yet.

LIVESTOCK

In San Joaquin County, sheep continued to graze on idle crop land, stubble fields, and dormant alfalfa fields. Supplemental feeding of livestock

continued as grasslands and rangeland lacked moisture. In Fresno County, the lack of rainfall has left rangeland forage conditions poor. Supplemental feeding continued. Bare-root roses were being received and processed for reshipment out-of-state, mostly to Texas. Bare-root berries were being received at wholesale nurseries. Nursery shipments have slowed due to the winter weather and time of year. Beehives were reported overwintering around Fresno County and were being given supplemental feedings. Most feedlots were reported at full capacity.