

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

Organics Encourage Support for Livestock Rule

The organic food sector is drumming up support for the recently ditched organic livestock rule. Leading the charge, Organic Valley cooperative of Wisconsin says the group is demanding that the Department of Agriculture stop interfering with the public process that created the rule. The coalition, which includes the National Farmers Union, published a paid open letter in the Washington Post Tuesday, asking Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to reinstate the rule that was issued in January of last year. USDA continually delayed the rule, and announced in December intent to withdraw the rule. The withdraw intent met support from livestock groups and the American Farm Bureau Federation. However, Organic Valley is calling on consumers to submit comments to USDA to reconsider. Last month, the Organic Trade Association, which is suing USDA over the withdraw of the rule, said that USDA data shows out of the more than 47,000 comments the department received in the last public comment period for the regulation, 99 percent were in favor of the rule becoming effective without further delay.

- [USDA Agency Recruits Young People as Future Employees](#)

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is looking to bring in young people who are open to considering a career there. (Stephanie Ho and Melissa Barbour, APHIS Intern Support Coordinator)

WEEK ENDING: January 14, 2018

RELEASED: January 16, 2018

WEATHER

Northern California experienced intermittent rainfall, with snow accumulation occurring at higher elevations, until high pressure brought drier conditions at the end of the week. Central and Southern

California experienced heavy precipitation earlier in the week as a strong Pacific storm system moved through the area and eventually gave way to drier conditions for the remainder of the week.

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

FIELD CROPS

Rice looked good, both in terms of stand and in weed control. 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** were growing well.

FRUIT CROPS

Pruning continued in stone fruit orchards and vineyards. **Persimmon** harvest continued. Some older, poorly producing orchards and vineyards were removed and prepared for replanting. Winter dormant sprays were applied to some orchards. Navel **orange** harvest continued. **Pomelos** were harvested. **Olive** growers continued to prune groves.

NUT CROPS

Pruning continued in nut orchards. Some older orchards were pushed out and the ground was prepped for planting. Herbicides were applied in some **pistachio** groves.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Fields were being prepared and planted with winter vegetable crops. **Lettuce** benefitted from the recent rain and growth looks ideal. Land preparation was ongoing for **tomatoes**. The spring **carrot** crop has not emerged, while winter carrots were scheduled to be planted in two weeks. Weed control was done on organic **onion** while convention onions were continued to be irrigated.

The **garlic** stand was established, but it could benefit greatly with some rain to continue growing.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and non-irrigated pasture were reported to be primarily in poor to very poor condition. Recent precipitation was beneficial to forage development, but conditions remain poor until more growth occurs. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Sheep grazed on idle crop land, stubble fields, and dormant alfalfa fields. Beehives overwintering in Fresno County were given supplemental feeding.