

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

### **Cattlemen Release 2018 Policy Priorities**

**At last week's Cattle Industry Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association released its policy priorities for 2018. The priorities center around five categories, including the 2018 Farm Bill, Trade and Market Access, Regulatory Reform, Antimicrobial Use, and Fake Meat. NCBA will be working to make sure the new farm bill includes funding for a Foot and Mouth vaccine bank. They also want to protect programs like EQIP and prevent market-disrupting policy like COOL. The regulatory-reform efforts will focus on finding a permanent solution to an electronic logging devices mandate, modernizing the Endangered Species Act, and replacing the 2015 Waters of the U.S. Rule. One of the newer priorities involves protecting the industry and consumers from fake meat and false labeling on products that don't contain real beef. "With tax reform, regulatory rollbacks, and new access to the Chinese market, we had some big victories in Washington last year," says incoming NCBA President Kevin Kester of California, "but now is not the time to take a break. 2018 is going to see a mix of new and familiar challenges."**

### **CA Study Says Farm Fields Are Causing Air Pollution**

**A recent study by the University of California – Davis says farm fields are causing major nitrogen oxide pollution in the state. The study indicates that between 20 and 32 percent of that smog is caused by farm fields with fertilizer applications. The study says recent findings show that agriculture is one of the dominant sources of nitrogen oxide in the U.S. It says the impact is especially large in the Midwest, where fertilizer inputs are substantial. The study took place in California's central valley, with the authors saying more study is needed around the state before new policies are suggested. If the study is proven, it means a lot of new regulations for farms around the state, with producers and agriculture industry stakeholders not happy about the idea. Renee Pinel of the Western Plant Health Association says it's just one study that hasn't even been peer-**

**reviewed yet. A wide range of universities and regulatory agencies have studied this and not found agriculture to be a significant contributor of nitrogen oxide.**

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### **UC launches drought video series**

Because periodic droughts will always be a part of life in California, the [UC California Institute for Water Resources](#) (CIWR) produced a series of videos to maintain drought awareness and planning, even in years when water is more abundant.

The first of the three videos premiered Feb. 2 on the [UCTV Sustainable California channel](#). Subsequent videos will be launched March 2 and April 6. [View the trailer here.](#)

The videos are inspired by a collection of [19 drought tips](#) produced by CIWR in collaboration with UC Agriculture and Natural Resources researchers during the drought of 2010-16. The tips cover a broad spectrum of California crops, from alfalfa to walnuts. Topics also include salt management, use of graywater in urban landscapes, and the use of shallow groundwater for crop production. Three topics – alfalfa, almonds and citrus – are featured in the three-episode CIWR video series.

The drought tips collection and the drought tip videos were sponsored by the California Department of Water Resources. Following is the schedule for the video releases:

#### **Friday, Feb. 2: Drought strategies for alfalfa** (View the video at <http://ucanr.edu>)

The CIWR drought tip series opens with Cannon Michael of Bowles Farming in Los Banos. The alfalfa grower works with UCCE specialist Dan Putnam. "There's a lot of misunderstanding about alfalfa as a crop," Michael said. "It does take water to grow it, as with anything, but you get multiple harvests of it every year."

#### **Friday, March 2: Drought management for California almonds**

The second episode features almond producer Raj of Meena farms. He works with David Doll, UCCE advisor in Merced County. "One positive of this drought," Meena said, "is that it has forced us all to be more efficient in how we use our water."

#### **Friday, April 6: Irrigating citrus with limited water**

The series finale features Lisa Brenneis of Churchill-Brenneis Orchard in the Ojai Valley of Ventura County. She worked with UCCE advisor Ben Faber to install a new water-

efficient irrigation system. "Irrigation is the only job we really have to do," Brenneis said, "and we have to get it as right as we can."

For a complete list of drought tips, see <http://ucanr.edu/drought-tips>.