

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

Trump Unveils Infrastructure Improvement Plan

President Donald Trump released his long-awaited plan to upgrade the nation's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and airports. Bloomberg says it may be a tough sell in Congress. Democrats say it falls short and Republicans are said to be wary of another large spending measure. The 53-page document shows how Trump plans to stimulate \$1.5 trillion in new investments. It also looks to shorten project permitting time to two years, invest in rural projects, and improve worker training. **Many of the main points in the plan have been known for some time. There were some new elements in the proposal, including expanding the use of private-activity bonds to finance projects. That would extend the use of tax-exempt debt by private entities and broaden the number of projects the bonds could be used for. Other proposals include letting states add tolls on interstates, as well as fostering public-private partnerships in transit projects. The plan also proposes streamlining legally required environmental analysis for public projects. Under the plan, regulators would have more latitude in waiving required environmental reviews.**

Perdue Praises Trump Infrastructure Plan

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue applauded the infrastructure plan laid out by President Donald Trump, specifically for its emphasis on investment in rural America. The plan calls for 25 percent of new federal funds to be dedicated to rural infrastructure needs, as prioritized by state and local leaders. Perdue says Trump has made it a priority to address the nation's infrastructure since the day he took office and has now followed through on that commitment. "No other area of the country needs investment in infrastructure more than rural America," he says. "With a quarter of new federal money going to rural parts of the country, states will have the ability to expand broadband access, increase connectivity, rebuild roads, and supply affordable utilities." Perdue also says it's important to remember that states get the flexibility to choose the projects that best meet their needs. "I've heard directly from people in the Heartland that this is just the type of investment they're looking for to help create jobs, improve education, improve the quality of life, and increase overall prosperity."

Student Loan Repayment Program Could Assist with Vet Shortage

Audio with Dr. Jim Weisman, Assistant Dean and Clinical Associate Professor, Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine

Last week, the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced that 187 regions in the United States currently suffer from shortages of livestock and public health veterinarians. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) believes that student debt is partly to blame for the shortage. Student debt is making it difficult for young veterinarians to work in rural areas where salaries are typically lower. There is a program that helps alleviate that burden and the AVMA is urging Congress to expand it.

It's called the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program; however, it does not currently receive enough funding to meet the demand.

Dr. Jim Weisman (wise-men), Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Clinical Associate Professor at the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, says he talks with students who qualify for the program and encourages them to apply...tape

Cut # 1 :17 OC: ..."as well."

Weisman believes that the shortage may also stem from a student's upbringing, saying that those who come from strong animal agriculture backgrounds will often want to return to that type of practice...tape

Cut #2 :14 OC:..."do that."

Weisman also says that there is not a shortage of those enrolling in the school as they had over 1200 applicants for 84 spots in the class of 2022. But the question remains, which area of veterinary practice will those 84, and others who come after, choose.

Wolf Designated OR-54 Takes Up Residence in California

According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), on approximately January 24, a gray wolf designated OR-54 crossed Oregon's southern border into eastern Siskiyou County, where it has remained since.

OR-54 hails from Oregon's Rogue Pack and was sired by OR-7, the dispersing wolf whose forays between southern Oregon and northern California beginning in 2011 sparked efforts to create a California Wolf Conservation Plan and to establish the gray wolf as an endangered species in California. CDFW believes that OR-54 may be dispersing from the Rogue Pack in search of a mate.

While the presence of yet another gray wolf in California will certainly not be welcome news for California's ranchers, there is perhaps a small silver lining: OR-54 was captured by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and fitted with a GPS collar that allows ODFW to track the whereabouts of the animal, which ODFW has been sharing with CDFW while the wolf is in California.

That said, a radio collar on the female breeding wolf of California's other known wolf population, the Lassen Pack, has not spared Lassen County ranchers the headaches associated with wolf presence, including numerous probable or possible and one confirmed wolf depredation upon livestock. And OR-54's presence isn't likely to ease those depredation fears: using OR-54's radio collar, ODFW biologists pinned three livestock kills on the Rogue Pack during the last month that OR-54 remained within Oregon.

Aside from the Lassen Pack and OR-54, no other wolves are currently confirmed by CDFW to be present within California: the current status of the Shasta Pack is unknown, with no confirmed sightings of any Shasta Pack wolves in California since May of 2016, and OR-25, which passed into Modoc County on numerous occasions, was killed in Oregon on October 29, 2017.

Livestock Handling and Animal Behavior with Temple Grandin

Join the Tehama, Glenn and Colusa Counties UC Cooperative Extension and internationally renowned author and speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin as she address livestock handling and animal behavior. Tickets are \$15 and breakfast by the world famous Vic Woolery is included!

Friday, February 23, 7-9am
Tehama District Fairgrounds
650 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff, CA

For more information, contact the extension office at (530) 527-3101 or by email at jsdavy@ucanr.edu.

Winter Animal Health Meetings

February 16, join the Shasta and Tehama County Cooperative Extensions for free animal health meetings in two locations.

ORLAND

Orland Livestock Auction Yard
3877 Co. Rd. 99W, Orland, CA
11am-2pm

COTTONWOOD

Shasta Livestock Auction Yard
3917 Main St, Cottonwood, CA
5pm-8pm

For more information or to view the meeting agenda, click [here](#). RSVP by February 14 to Tehama County UCCE at (530) 527-3101 or to Shasta County UCCE at (530) 224-4900 to reserve your seat and no cost lunch in Orland or dinner in Cottonwood.

CCA's Steak and Eggs Legislative Breakfast Scheduled for March 14

Save the date and come celebrate the 40th Annual CCA Steak and Eggs Legislative Breakfast. Once again held at the historic Sutter Club and followed by legislative visits at the California State Capitol, you won't want to miss this great opportunity to meet your representatives and advocate on behalf of cattle ranching in the Golden State.

To RSVP for the Steak and Eggs Legislative Breakfast and legislative visits, please contact Katie Roberti by calling the CCA office, or by email at katier@calcattlemen.org.

Knocking Out Noxious Weeds on Rangelands Workshop

Join the fight to reduce noxious weeds on rangelands and get the latest management tools at the final Knocking Out Noxious Weeds Workshop set for February 20 at the Radisson Hotel in Santa Maria. The workshop is designed for ranchers and land managers, featuring a dynamic list of speakers covering a range of land management topics associated with invasive species.

The workshops will showcase effective strategies to manage invasive species, highlight cost-effective approaches that maximize success, feature reduced-risk practices while promoting biodiversity and discuss the economic losses caused by invasive species on rangelands.

For a complete agenda and to register please click [here](#).

For questions please contact Matthew Shapero, UC Cooperative Extension Livestock & Range advisor serving Ventura and Santa Barbara counties at 805-645-1475 or at mkwshapero@ucanr.edu.

LAST CHANCE: Public Lands Council Conference Scholarships Now Available

The Public Lands Council is offering two Nick Theos scholarships of \$250, complimentary hotel accommodations on Capitol Hill and complimentary conference registration to attend the annual Spring Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., April 10-12.

In an effort to get more college students involved with PLC issues and provide them with an unforgettable learning experience, PLC offers this chance to meet members of Congress and their staff, attend meetings with agency officials and hear from the leading experts and influencers in the industry. Scholars will be able to actively participate in our efforts to promote and support public lands grazing in our nation's capital.

Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in public lands ranching. PLC will provide hotel rooms and registration fees. Sponsorships to help cover travel costs are encouraged. If selected, applicants should be prepared to give short remarks to attendees during lunch on Tuesday, March 24.

For questions or to apply, fill out the online application [here](#) by February 9, or contact Allie Nelson, 406-231-3328, anelson@beef.org.