

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

California Ag Reacts to Tariff Spat

Audio with Ryan Jacobsen, CEO/Executive Director of the Fresno County Farm Bureau

Within hours of the U.S. announcing tariffs against China, the Chinese government releases a possible tariff list on American products.

The U.S. has placed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum products. As expected, China did not receive an exemption like other U.S. trade partners have.

The possible retaliatory tariffs list from China includes farm goods.

That list, according to the New York Times includes fresh fruit, nuts and wine, which might face a 15 percent tariff. California ag exports to China generate about \$2 billion a year.

Fresno County Farm Bureau CEO/Executive Director Ryan Jacobsen responds...tape

Cut #1 :10 OC:...“trading partner.”

Despite China's announcement, Jacobsen believes it's still too early to know the full impact...tape

Cut #2 :08 OC:...“like this.”

That's Fresno County Farm Bureau CEO/Executive Director Ryan Jacobsen.

CDFW Offers RFPs for Cattle Grazing to Control Vegetation in Humboldt, Del Norte Counties

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced that it is offering three Request for Proposals (RFPs) to issue Permits for Excess Vegetation

Control (Grazing) at the following areas located in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties:

- RFP P2018101: Approximately 210 acres known as the Ocean Ranch Unit and Table Bluff Ecological Reserve on the Eel River Wildlife Area in Humboldt County (Event ID 8613)
- RFP P2018102: Approximately 297 acres within the Lake Earl Wildlife area in Del Norte County (Event ID 8614)
- RFP P2018103: Approximately 70 acres located on the Salt River Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area in Humboldt County (Event ID 8617)

The RFP packages can be accessed on the California State Contracts Register's Cal eProcedure website [here](#) and can be found by searching for the Event IDs listed above in the "Event ID" field under "Search Events."

Proposal packages are also available via e-mail or hard copy. To request a proposal package, or for any questions regarding the RFP process, contact Sherry Leffler by phone at (530) 225-2853 or by email at sherry.leffler@wildlife.ca.gov.

Bids must be received on or before April 6, 2018 at 3:00pm.

March 26, 2018

This Week In Sacramento (and Beyond)

- **California State Legislature On Recess**

From Headquarters

President Signs Omnibus Bill, Includes Wins for Ranchers

Last Friday, the President signed legislation to fund the government for the duration of the 2018 fiscal year. The omnibus measure incorporates all 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2018. Included, were several major wins for the cattle industry.

CERCLA Reporting for Livestock Operations

The omnibus includes the FARM Act, legislation spearheaded by NCBA to exempt agricultural producers from reporting low-concentration manure odors to the federal government. The language is narrowly tailored to exempt agricultural reporting under the Comprehensive Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) for air emissions due to the natural breakdown of manure at a farm. The fix was urgently needed due to a recent court decision that, effective May 1, would have eliminated an agricultural exemption in place for ten years.

ELD Delay

Section 132 of the omnibus prohibits funds from being used to enforce the electronic logging device rule with respect to carriers transporting livestock or insects, effectively delaying the ELD enforcement date for agricultural commodity haulers through September 2018. This provides the Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration additional time for industry concerns to be addressed, as well as necessary educational training on the actual ELDs and livestock exemptions.

Wildfire Funding

The bill includes provisions of the long-debated wildfire funding or "fire borrowing" fix, preventing other land management accounts from being depleted during heavy fire years. Along with some expanded spending

authority comes some streamlining of authority to engage in vegetation management and fuels reduction activities on federal lands.

Interior Reorganization

The omnibus prevents the Department of Interior from further pursuing departmental reorganizing efforts without Congressional approval. The report states: No agency shall implement any part of a reorganization that modifies regional or State boundaries for agencies or bureaus that were in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act unless approved consistent with the General Guidelines for Reprogramming procedures specified herein. Any such reprogramming request submitted to the Committees on Appropriations shall include a description of anticipated benefits, including anticipated efficiencies and cost-savings, as well as a description of anticipated personnel impacts and funding changes anticipated to implement the proposal.

Tax Reform Correction

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 created a 20-percent Section 199A deduction aimed at restoring the benefits of the repealed Section 199 domestic production activities deduction (DPAD). Unfortunately, the law provided a major advantage to co-ops, however, in that their farmers were allowed to deduct 20 percent of the value of their sales to cooperatives but only 20 percent of their net farm income when selling commodities to other buyers. Language in the omnibus corrects this issue to restore competitive balance in the marketplace. The fix replicates as closely as possible the old 199 and is retroactive to Jan 1.

FINAL REMINDER: 2017 Water Reports Due April 1 for Many Diversions

Under the Emergency Regulation for Measuring and Reporting the Diversion of Water adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in 2016, all water rights holders diverting water under a permit, license, registration or certificate must file their 2017 annual use reports by April 1, regardless of the size of those diversions (those filing Statements of Diversion and Use for riparian and pre-1914 rights have until July 1 to file). The reports must be made electronically using the Board's Water Right Form and Survey Submittal Portal [here](#). Failure to file water use reports by April 1 may subject diverters to fines of up to \$500 per day.

For diverters of more than 10 acre-feet per year (who are required to install a measurement device under the regulations), the measurement provisions of the regulations were phased in between January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2018 depending on the size and type of the diversion. If you were not required to have a measurement device installed during portions of 2017, or if you were granted an extension of time to install a measuring device, you may estimate the quantity of water diverted based on your experience and knowledge of the diversion.

UCCE Begins Offering AB 589 Courses for Diverter Self-Certification

On January 1, CCA-sponsored AB 589 (Bigelow) formally took effect. AB 589 allows diverters of 100 acre-feet of water per year or more to take a University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) course and self-certify as a "qualified individual" for purposes of installing, calibrating and certifying a water diversion measurement device required by SB 88 (2015) and the Emergency Regulation for Measuring and Reporting the Diversion of Water adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in 2016.

Prior to passage of AB 589, SWRCB regulations required diverters of 100 or more acre-feet of water per year to hire an engineer or a contractor to install, calibrate and certify water diversion measurement devices. By instead self-certifying as a "qualified individual" by completing an AB 589 course, diverters of 100 or more acre-feet of water per year may save thousands of dollars.

UCCE and the SWRCB began consulting on a course curriculum late last year, and UCCE has now begun offering the AB 589 courses. The first two AB 589 courses were held last week in Cottonwood and Adin, serving approximately 185 attendees. More courses are expected to be offered in the near future; *Legislative Bulletin* will update you on the availability of those courses as information becomes available.

For more information, contact Kirk Wilbur in the CCA office.

SWRCB Releases Supplemental Extension of Time Forms

As outlined above, CCA-sponsored AB 589 formally took effect on January 1, allowing diverters of 100 acre-feet of water per year or more to take a UCCE course and self-certify as a "qualified individual" for purposes of installing, calibrating and certifying a water diversion measurement device required by SB 88.

Most diverters of 100 acre-feet or more were required to install a measurement device between January 1 and July 1, 2017. Many of these diverters requested extensions of time, most of which expired January 1, 2018 or shortly thereafter. Because AB 589 courses had not been developed by January 1, this raised the specter of noncompliance (and accompanying

fines) for many diverters. The SWRCB's response was that those whose extensions of time had expired should file a Supplemental Request for Additional Time. Unfortunately, the SWRCB was slow to roll out the forms necessary for filing those Supplemental Requests.

Earlier this month, however, the SWRCB announced that the Supplemental Request for Additional Time form is finally available on the Board's Water Right Form and Survey Submittal Portal [here](#). According to the SWRCB, those who previously filed extension of time requests should file the Supplemental Request if they intend to take a UCCE measurement course to be deemed a "qualified individual." CCA recommends requesting at least an additional 6 months' time to ensure that you'll have sufficient time to take the UCCE course and to install your measurement device.

The SWRCB also notes that the Supplemental Request is available for those not intending to take the self-certification course but who wish to revise their requests because they need more time to comply than initially authorized by the SWRCB. (Those who require an extension of time but have not previously filed a request should file an initial Request for Additional Time.)

UC Rangelands Drought Hub a Resource for California Ranchers

The UC Rangelands Rangeland Drought Hub now makes it even easier to report drought conditions and impacts to the US Drought Monitor (USDM). Through the interactive, online portal all of the information you need to report and manage drought is just a click away.

The Drought Hub also has information on federal and state assistance

programs, feed and nutrition solutions for producers experiencing drought, current moisture and snow pack conditions as well as the latest in drought research and currently needs your help!

The USDM is currently seeking more on-the-ground information on drought conditions and impacts across California's rangelands and the window to inform the USDM intensity/impact maps for California will quickly close as the growing season progresses.

Below are ways you can provide input:

- Submit information to the Drought Reporter- This site allows users to describe drought impacts, report drought duration, report affected areas and share photos of drought impact. Learn more on photo monitoring and submission [here](#). Providing real-time information is immensely helpful to the USDM authors.
- Join CA-NV Drought monitor workgroup's monthly calls- These monthly conference calls provide a targeted opportunity for CA and NV input. Contact Cindy Matthews at cindy.matthews@noaa.gov to join the group.

Click [here](#) to visit the Drought Hub.

Click [here](#) to visit the Drought Monitor directly.

Registration Now Open for 2018 CA/AZ Cattle Feeders Meeting

Save the date for the annual CA/AZ Cattle Feeders Meeting at the Marriott Marquis, San Diego, May 23-25. Registration includes two breakfasts, lunch, refreshments throughout the event and an exclusive dinner aboard the USS Midway aircraft carrier.

Early Bird Registration is just \$275. Click [here](#) to register now before prices

go up April 1.

Digging Deeper

What Ranchers and Landowners Need to Know About Complying with SB88 for Stock Ponds [*UCANR*](#) As the April 1 deadline approaches for diverters to report their 2017 diversion and use of water, Kern County's UCCE Advisor lays out the regulatory requirements for measuring and reporting stock pond diversions and provides helpful tips on accurately measuring water stored in stock ponds. To read more, click [here](#).

Industry News

Range ecologist: Grazing gets a bad rap [*Times-News*](#) "A study in California showed that early grazing can reduce cheatgrass and increase perennial grasses by eight times." To continue reading, click [here](#).

Humboldt County rancher arrested after hundreds of dead cows found on his property [*The Press Democrat*](#) "A Humboldt County rancher was arrested this week on suspicion of animal cruelty after nearly 300 dead cows were found stacked in 10-foot-high piles on his property, authorities said." To continue reading, click [here](#).

Ranchers sue utility over alleged role in California fire [*Associated Press*](#) "Ranchers who lost cattle and property during California's largest-ever wildfire sued a utility Thursday for allegedly failing to maintain aging equipment and manage vegetation in areas where the blaze was sparked."

To continue reading, click [here](#).