

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

Think Safety as Farm Activity Increases

Audio with Cory Stengel, Oregon Farm Bureau Health and Safety Committee

With the warmer weather, farm operations are becoming more and more active in the fields and on the roads. And, with additional people and additional equipment comes additional opportunities for injuries and accidents.

Cory Stengel with the Oregon Farm Bureau Health and Safety Committee says farmers typically do a good planning projects to ensure everyone know what they are doing, so it can be done so safely.

However, that mindset can change this time of year...tape

Cut #1 :06 OC:...“out the window.”

Stengel says there are several simple steps to keep the workers on your operation safe. He says have a daily tailgate meeting, where the projects and safety concerns are discussed at the start of the day. He also says it's important to trash any shortcuts before someone is hurt.

He also says many state Farm Bureaus have compiled safety issues and questions farmers come across online...tape

Cut #2 :11 OC:...“your fingertips.”

Stengel says it's best to plan ahead, noting it's better to be proactive rather than reactive.

Week ending: May 6, 2018
Released: May 7, 2018

WEATHER

The northern Sierras experienced some scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms, with some areas seeing a slight dusting of snow. The early week's cool and breezy conditions eventually made way to warmer temperatures by midweek. Temperatures for the week were around normal for the most part across California.

Temperature highs for the week ranged in the 60s to 70s in the mountains, 80s to 90s in the valley, 60s to 90s along the coast, and 90s to 100s in the desert. Temperature lows for the week ranged in the 20s to 30s in the mountains, in the 40s to 50s in the valley, 30s to 50s along the coast, and 30s to 50s in the desert region.

FIELD CROPS

Corn was planted as weather and soil conditions permitted in Tulare. Ground preparation continued for spring forage and row crops. **Alfalfa** fields continued to mature and were harvested. Winter **wheat** and **oats**, were cut, dried, and baled. **Rice** planting continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Vineyards continued to leaf-out and progress into the early stages of flowering. Leaf removal was ongoing in some vineyards. Stone fruit orchards continued to leaf, as the bloom draws to a close. Immature fruit on early stone fruit varieties were thinned. New orchards were being planted. **Cherries** were sizing well and some early varieties were harvested. **Pomegranates, persimmons, olives** and **kiwis** were blooming. Kiwi pollen was being collected to be used to pollenate other blocks. The harvest of late variety Navel **oranges** continued with some grading issues. Valencia oranges were harvested. Seedless **tangerine** groves remained netted for the bloom. **Grapefruit** harvest was wrapping up. Some citrus trees were being planted.

NUT CROPS

Walnut and **pistachio** bloom was ongoing. **Almonds** were developing well. Almond and walnuts were irrigated. Pesticides and fungicides were applied to some almond groves. Weed control continued.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and **lettuce** continued to progress well in Monterey. **Strawberry** plantings progressed well in Tulare, and mature fruit was being picked. Greenhouse vegetables continued to be harvested. Fields were being prepared for summer vegetables.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and non-irrigated pasture was drying out in locations with south or west facing slopes. Sheep grazed on retired crop land. Bees were active in citrus and olive groves.