

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

major farm groups' concerns, Chinese tariffs on US soybeans, beef, pork and other goods will do lasting damage in that huge market.

Farmers for Free Trade Executive Direct Brian Kuehl (Keel)...tape

Cut #2 \_\_\_\_\_ :16 OC:... "on China."

Instead, Kuehl says the administration has taken a "scatter-shot" approach...tape

Cut #3 \_\_\_\_\_ :14 OC:... "whacking the EU."

The very countries that Kuehl says the US needs, to put pressure on China. And, those countries have now placed tariffs of their own on US farm goods, while adding new uncertainty to the fate of trade talks like NAFTA.

### **Senate Bill Creates Group to Study Trucking Regulations**

**Legislation introduced last week in the U.S. Senate would revise existing trucking regulations to make the rules more flexible for drivers hauling livestock, according to the National Pork Producers Council. The "Modernizing Agricultural Transportation Act" would establish a working group at the Department of Transportation to examine the federal Hours of Service rules and the Electronic Logging Device regulations. The Hours of Service rules limit commercial truckers to 11 hours of driving time and 14 consecutive hours of on-duty time in any 24-hour period. Once drivers reach that limit, they must pull over and wait ten hours before driving again. Electric Logging Device's record driving data, to enforce the rules. The legislation requires the Secretary of Transportation to establish a working group within 120 days to identify obstacles to the "safe, humane, and market-efficient transport of livestock, insects, and other perishable agricultural commodities" and to develop guidelines and recommendations for regulatory or legislative action to improve the transportation of those commodities.**

WEEK ENDING: June 17, 2018

RELEASED: June 18, 2018

## **WEATHER**

As the passing low pressure from the weekend moved towards the east, high pressure began to build across California. This led to a warming trend in temperatures and dry conditions across the state. By midweek, temperatures began to decrease as an upper level trough began to move toward the west of the state. Increased onshore flow allowed for cooler marine air to move over the state. This brought temperatures to below normal levels. Over the weekend, isolated showers were reported over the higher elevations of the state.

Temperature highs ranged from the low 60s to low 90s in the mountains, 70s to upper 90s along the coast, upper 90s to lower 100s in the valley, and upper 90s to lower 110s in the desert. Temperature lows for the week ranged from the mid 40s to mid 50s in the mountains, mid 40s to lower 60s along the coast, lower 50s to lower 60s in the valley, and upper 40s to lower 70s in the desert.

## **FIELD CROPS**

**Wheat** harvest continued in Sutter County, and safflower was in bloom. In Tulare County, fields were being prepared for **corn** and summer **beans**. **Alfalfa** and **cotton** were irrigated. **Barley**, **oats**, and wheat was cut or harvested for grain

## **FRUIT CROPS**

**Grapes** were developing well. Stone fruit orchards were irrigated and fertilized. Some orchard floors were lined with reflective plastic to aid in fruit color. Summer pruning of stone fruit continued. **Peaches**, **nectarines** and **apricots** were harvested. **Cherry** harvest was wrapping up for the season. Valencia **orange** harvest continued. Some citrus trees were being planted and older trees were trimmed and skirted.

## **NUT CROPS**

**Almonds**, **Pistachios**, and **walnuts** were irrigated. Pesticides and fungicides were applied to some almond groves. Weed control continued.

## **VEGETABLE CROPS**

**Lettuce** continued to be harvested in Monterey County. **Sweet corn** and **melons** were growing well in San Joaquin County. **Cucumbers, peppers,** and **squash** were harvested in Tulare County, and summer vegetables were planted.

## **LIVESTOCK**

Rangeland and non-irrigated pasture was primarily in fair condition. Sheep grazed on retired crop land. Bees were active in sunflower fields.

Please be advised, the Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report's Weather Data Tables may be discontinued for budget reasons. This includes the possibility of discontinuing the weather data narratives and graphics. Please contact the Pacific Regional Field Office (916-738-6600) with comments regarding this issue. The Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report's Crop Progress and Condition data will remain and be available.