

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

<https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2018-07-09/rural-farming/hearing-set-challenging-epas-refusal-to-ban-controversial-pesticide/a63251-1>

Hearing Set Challenging EPA's Refusal to Ban Controversial Pesticide July 9, 2018

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The battle to ban a pesticide that the State of California has linked to reproductive harm continues to play out in court today as final arguments in the case commence before a federal judge in Seattle.

Conservation groups sued the EPA after former administrator Scott Pruitt, having met with Dow Chemical, decided to keep chlorpyrifos on the market - even though the agency under President Barack Obama had declared it unsafe and proposed a ban. Patti Goldman, northwest managing attorney for the law firm Earthjustice, said multiple studies make it clear that chlorpyrifos is too dangerous to be used, especially around kids.

"What's emerged in the last 20 years is incredibly solid evidence that this pesticide damages children's brains at very low exposures," Goldman said; "things like reduced IQ, autism, attention deficit disorder - every parent's fear."

Chlorpyrifos is one of the most widely used pesticides in the U.S., particularly in California, where it is mainly applied to golf courses and to about 50 different crops - including almonds, grapes, walnuts, oranges and cotton.

A Dow Chemical spokesman said in a statement, "Dow AgroSciences remains confident that authorized uses of chlorpyrifos products offer wide margins of protection for human health and safety."

Goldman said use of the pesticide puts the health of farmworkers and their families at particularly heightened risk.

"They have the residues on their food like all of us do. It's in their water and

it's in the air close to the fields where they live and work and go to school," she said. "So they have like triple the exposures."

Chorpyrifos has been banned for residential use since 2001, and the state of California has placed restrictions on its use in fields. The judge with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is expected to render a decision in the coming weeks or months.

A livestream of the hearing is viewable [here](#).

WEEK ENDING: July 8, 2018

RELEASED: July 9, 2018

WEATHER

Onshore flow helped to keep coastal area temperatures near seasonal averages for most of the week. Interior areas experienced a gradual cooling trend from the start of the week to midweek thanks to an upper level ridge retrograding to the west which allowed for an upper level trough to dig into the area. By Thursday, building high pressure to the east of California began to retrograde towards the west. A heatwave soon developed over southern California as the high pressure reached the deserts and allowed for warmer air to move into the interior areas of California.

Temperature highs ranged from the upper 60s to upper 90s in the mountains, lower 80s to lower 90s in the sierras, lower 80s to upper 110s along the coast, 90s to upper 100s in the valley, and lower 100s to upper 110s in the desert. Temperature lows ranged in the upper 30s to upper 50s in the sierras, lower 40s to mid 50s in the mountains, upper 40s to lower 60s along the coast, mid 50s to 70s in the valley, and upper 50s to upper 70s in the desert.

FIELD CROPS

Corn and **potatoes** were harvested in San Joaquin County, and **alfalfa** was cut. Summer **beans** and **cotton** were irrigated in Tulare County. Alfalfa was irrigated, cut, and baled. **Rice** was developing well in the Sacramento Valley, and will begin heading soon.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape bunches were beginning to improve in color. Grape vineyards were irrigated. Stone fruit orchards were sprayed, irrigated and fertilized. Summer pruning of stone fruit continued. **Peaches, nectarines, apricots, figs,** and **plums** were harvested. Valencia **orange** harvest continued in Tulare County. Citrus packers were color sorting as citrus greening was more prevalent due to high temperatures. **Blueberry** harvest was winding down in most of Tulare County.

NUT CROPS

Almond, walnut and **pistachio** orchards were irrigated. Pesticides and fungicides were applied to some almond groves. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Melons were progressing well in San Joaquin County and were ready for harvest while sweet **corn** was harvested. **Cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, squash,** and **zucchini** were harvested in Tulare County.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and non-irrigated pasture continued to deteriorate with the warm dry weather. Lower elevation range and non-irrigated pasture was in poor to fair and dry conditions. Rangeland conditions were better at higher elevations. Cattle were provided supplemental feed to compensate for the declining nutritional value of the rangeland forage. Sheep grazed on retired crop land. Bees were active in sunflower fields.