

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

### Growing Western Wildfire Activity Expected To Continue

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An over 100,000-acre blaze in Northern California is one of just over 100 Western wildfires currently active, which weather conditions this week potentially contributing to more. (Rod Bain and USDA meteorologist Brad Rippey)

Week ending: July 29, 2018

Released: July 30, 2018

### **WEATHER**

As high pressure aloft began to become dominant over the southwestern United States, hot and dry conditions spread throughout the state. Temperatures saw a drastic rise across southern California, in which temperatures either tied or surpassed daily records. In the early part of the week, the higher elevations in north west California and southern Sierras had isolated showers and thunderstorms respectively. Over the weekend, temperatures began to gradually cool as the high pressure aloft began to weaken.

Temperature highs ranged from the lower 60s to mid 100s in the mountains, mid 70s to upper 100s along the coast, mid 80s to upper 90s in the Sierras, lower 100s to lower 110s in the valley, and mid 100s to lower 120s in the desert. Temperatures lows ranged from the lower 40s to upper 60s in the Sierras, lower 50s to upper 50s in the mountains, lower 50s to upper 60s along the coast, upper 50s to upper 70s in the valley, and lower 60s to upper 80s in the desert.

### **FIELD CROPS**

**Rice** was being treated for armyworm in Tulare County. Rice was progressing well in the Sacramento Valley. **Sunflower** were being treated

for head moth, **safflower** was fully bloomed, and **wheat** harvest was nearly finished. Sunflower in Sutter County began to defoliate.

## **FRUIT CROPS**

**Grape** vineyards were irrigated. **Peaches, nectarines, apricots, figs**, table grapes, **pears**, and **plums** were harvested. Stone fruit orchards were sprayed, irrigated and fertilized. Summer pruning and topping of harvested stone fruit orchards continued. A few stone fruit growers reported increased disease pressure and fruit drop from the summer's extreme weather. Valencia **oranges** were harvested. Citrus packers were color sorting as citrus greening was exacerbated by high temperatures.

## **NUT CROPS**

**Almond, walnut** and **pistachio** orchard irrigation increased in response to the excessive high heat experienced this month. Sunburn protection was applied to some walnut groves. Almond hull split was underway but reported to be slower than normal. Almond groves were treated with pesticides and fungicides. Pistachio nuts were progressing well.

## **VEGETABLE CROPS**

**Sweet Corn** continued to be harvested in Sacramento County. **Brassica** was harvested in Monterey County. **Cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, squash**, and **zucchini** were harvested in Tulare County. **Brussels sprouts** and squash continue to progress well in San Mateo County.

## **LIVESTOCK**

Rangeland and non-irrigated pasture quality continued to deteriorate with the hot dry weather. Lower elevation range and non-irrigated pasture was in poor to fair condition. Cattle were provided supplemental feed to compensate for the declining nutritional value of the rangeland forage. Wildfires in the northern parts of the state forced evacuations of some large animals and burned many acres of rangeland. Sheep grazed on retired crop land. Bees were active in sunflower and melon fields.