

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

The Trump Administration formally launched trade talks this week with key agricultural trading partners Japan, Britain and the European Union.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer sent Congress letters lawmakers, the administration will negotiate bilateral deals with Japan, the EU, and United Kingdom.

Formalizing the efforts signals the president's aggressive stance on trade ahead of the November elections, at the same time he steps up his trade fight with China. It also sets the stage for requesting expedited trade deal approval from Congress, known as Trade Promotion Authority.

American Farm Bureau trade adviser Dave Salmonsens says U.S. agriculture needs new and expanded markets...tape

Cut #1 :09 OC:... "European Union."

Japan meantime, accounts for some 80 percent of new market share among nations in the TPP agreement that President Trump abandoned.

And, Japan is already the number one export market for U.S. beef, with some \$1.9 billion in purchases last year, and the prospect of dramatically lower beef tariffs in any new deal with the US.

National Cattlemen's Kent Bacus...tape

Cut #2 :24 OC:... "happen overnight."

Bacus says it may take months, but will be worth it...tape

Cut #3 :12 OC:... "U.S. economy."

Commerce Department figures show U.S. trade with the EU, for example, supports 2.6 million American jobs.

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## **Livestock owners asked to weigh in on fire impact**

*[EDITORS: Updated to include survey link <http://bit.ly/FIREsurvey>. Livestock photos can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/2NNmlO2>.]*

Preparing a farm for wildfire is more complicated when it involves protecting live animals. To assess the impact of wildfire on livestock production, University of California researchers are asking livestock producers to participate in a survey.

People raising cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, swine, horses, llamas, alpacas, aquaculture species or other production-oriented animals in California who have experienced at least one wildfire on their property within the last 10 years are asked to participate in the [FIRE survey](#).

"We will aim to quantify the impact of wildfires in different livestock production systems," said Beatriz Martinez Lopez, director of the Center for Animal Disease Modeling and Surveillance in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. "The idea is also to create a risk map showing areas more likely to experience wildfires with high economic impact in California.

"This economic and risk assessment, to the best of our knowledge, has not been done and we hope to identify potential actions that ranchers can take to reduce or mitigate their losses if their property is hit by wildfire."

Martínez López, who is also an associate professor in the Department of Medicine & Epidemiology at UC Davis, is teaming up with UC Cooperative Extension livestock and natural resources advisors and wildfire specialists around the state to conduct the study.

"Right now, we have no good estimate of the real cost of wildfire to livestock producers in California," said Rebecca Ozeran, UC Cooperative Extension livestock and natural resources advisor for Fresno and Madera counties. "Existing UCCE forage loss worksheets cannot account for the many other ways that wildfire affects livestock farms and ranches. As such, we need producers' input to help us calculate the range of immediate and long-term costs of wildfire."

Stephanie Larson, UC Cooperative Extension livestock and range management advisor for Sonoma and Marin counties, agreed, saying, "The more producers who participate, the more accurate and useful our results will be."

"We hope the survey results will be used by producers across the state to prepare for wildfire," said Matthew Shapero, UC Cooperative Extension livestock and natural resources advisor for Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, "And by federal and private agencies to better allocate funds for postfire programs available to livestock producers."

The survey is online at <http://bit.ly/FIREsurvey>. It takes 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the number of properties the participant has that have been affected by wildfire.

"Survey answers are completely confidential and the results will be released only as summaries in which no individual's answers can be identified," said Martínez López. "This survey will provide critical information to create the foundation for future fire economic assessments and management decisions."

*UC Agriculture and Natural Resources researchers and educators draw on local expertise to conduct agricultural, environmental, economic, youth development and nutrition research that helps California thrive. Learn more at [ucanr.edu](http://ucanr.edu).*

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