



Federal Affairs

Republicans Win Government Trifecta

The 2024 elections proved to be a significant win for Republicans, with former President Donald Trump set to retake the White House and the GOP claiming majorities in both the House and Senate. A sweep of nearly every battleground state resulted in convincing a 312-226 Electoral College win, with the former president also winning the popular vote by an estimated three million votes. Republicans flipped three Senate seats previously held by Democrats in West Virginia, Ohio, and Montana. They appear likely to pick up a fourth seat in Pennsylvania as well, but an automatic statewide recount has been issued and should be concluded before Thanksgiving.

Several House races remain uncalled as of last Friday, including four from California. Those include Reps. Jim Costa, John Duarte, Josh Harding, and Michelle Steel. No matter the results, Republicans will once again have a razor thin majority in the lower chamber, with current Speaker Mike Johnson (LA) retaining the top post after a conference vote last week. In the Senate, South Dakota Sen. John Thune won an internal vote to serve as the Majority Leader. He will replace Sen. Mitch McConnell (KY), who announced his plans to step down earlier this year.

The incoming administration is set to nominate several Congressional members to serve in Cabinet roles, and while this could complicate the voting math in the House early on for Republicans, all currently known nominees occupy reliably safe GOP-held positions and special election talks are already underway. Ultimately, we anticipate significant changes in policy focus under the Republican trifecta. Taxes, trade, and border security remain key issue areas that could have direct impacts on agriculture early on. We will certainly update members as those priorities take shape through the transition process. Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl;

USDA Proposes Final FMMO Changes

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service issued a [final decision](#) last week on a proposal to amend the uniform pricing formulas for all 11 Federal Milk Marketing Orders (FMMO), which govern the prices for different classes of milk across the country. Changes made back in 2018 were largely seen as harmful to the dairy industry throughout much of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the years following. The proposals cap a two-year process to solicit feedback from the industry on how to best alter the system to better serve dairy producers.

The four main changes include: a reduction in the delayed implementation of the revised skim milk composition factors from 12 months to 6 months; adding a \$0.0015 marketing cost factor

in all make allowances; a modification to the methodology used to determine the nonfat dry milk make allowance; and limited changes to certain county-specific Class I differentials. USDA released an [economic analysis](#) of how the various orders would have been impacted by the proposed changes, generally showing gains for most. CAFB will be reviewing this with other ag partners to assess how these changes will look moving forward. A vote is scheduled at the beginning of the year for any producer whose milk is pooled in an FMMO. Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl; mviohl@cfbf.com

Member Engagement Opportunity: FSA County Elections

Last week, USDA mailed ballots for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee elections. Ballots should be received by all eligible agricultural producers and private landowners and should be postmarked no later than December 2nd to be counted. These FSA committees serve as instrumental tools by which local producers can remain engaged with USDA and help guide regional FSA offices as they work to implement a myriad of programs at the local level. You can find more details [here](#). For those interested in being nominated in the future, we anticipate nominations opening up in the summer of 2025. We would be more than happy to work with any members interested in being considered for nominations at that time. Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl; mviohl@cfbf.com

Free Tax Education Webinars

There is no good time to experience a disaster, but it is especially difficult to navigate recovery this close to tax season. USDA is helping host two free webinars on how to navigate the tax implications of natural disaster damage and tips on how to work with a tax professional.

Hurricane and Disaster Tax Issues for Farmers and Ranchers

Date - November 20, 2024

Time - 11:30 - 1:30 PST

Presenter - JC Hobbs, Oklahoma State University

[Register Here](#)

Working with a Tax Professional

Date - November 22, 2024

Time - 10:00 - 11:30 PST

Presenter - Kevin Burkett, Clemson University

[Register Here](#)

Prospects Fade on Farm Bill

With the election now in the rearview mirror, lawmakers returned to DC last week with hopes of addressing a litany of "lame duck" priorities. Much of the ag world was hopeful this would

include a full reauthorization of the Farm Bill, but the longshot bid seems to have lost steam. Instead, it appears Congress might be shifting focus to disaster funding and a possible “economic assistance” cash infusion for a select few row crops. It remains to be seen whether the two will be combined with a one-year reauthorization of the Farm Bill, or if they will take another approach altogether. Outgoing Sen. Debbie Stabenow (MI) remains a central figure in the Senate for getting a full reauthorization done, but reports are mixed on her willingness to see it happen. Republicans winning control of the Senate could mean some of the Farm Bill might go back to ‘square one’ in the new Congress, meaning an early passage would be unlikely. Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl; mviohl@cfbf.com



Low Carbon Fuel Standard

On Friday, November 8, the Air Resources Board held a 12-hour hearing to gather input from stakeholders and affected individuals regarding the amendments to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard. The program seeks to reduce the carbon intensity of traditional fossil fuels and encourage bridge fuels. The program also secures crediting for avoided methane which is turned into biofuels and crop-based biofuels. CAFB had submitted comments and participated in the multi-year long process with CARB. Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

Dairy Marketing Assistance Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the application deadline for the Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP) 2024 to **Dec.13, 2024**. This extension gives organic dairy producers two additional weeks to apply for the program. Eligible producers include certified organic dairy operations that produce milk from cows, goats and sheep. [For More Information](#), Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

H5N1 in Dairies

Several important guidance documents related to HPAI were recently released or re-released. Find descriptions and links to them below.

Joint Guidance on Worker Safety Related to HPAI

In order to clarify requirements related to protecting dairy workers during HPAI outbreaks on dairies, CDFA, CDPH and Cal/OSHA (with others) jointly issued [“State of California Guidance on Bird Flu for Workers and Employers”](#). Highlights of the guidance include:

- **The State and Federal governments maintain the risk to the general public is low.** No person-to-person spread had been demonstrated in California or the U.S. All persons in

California who have become infected had direct contact with infected cows. The [small number](#) of human cases in the state have reported mild symptoms, primarily eye infections (“Pink-Eye”) or mild flu-like symptoms. All human cases have responded well to treatment and none have been hospitalized.

- **Guidance for worker PPE has been established.** The document [links](#) to specific guidance for worker PPE. Importantly producers must [provide](#) respiratory protection, such as an [N95 mask](#), and eye protection such as [goggles](#) or [face shield](#). Additional requirements may be implemented depending on how an “enclosed area” is defined on a dairy. CDQAP and your trade organizations will provide additional information as it becomes available. For farms with confirmed HPAI cases, producers can request [direct shipments](#) of PPE, at least until December 1st 2024. .
- **Workers who become infected have assistance.** A worker who suspects he has become infected can obtain free testing and treatment through their local county [public health department](#). Local health departments do not require or collect Social Security numbers or residency status information. Employees who become infected are also eligible for workers’ compensation benefits.

CDFA Guidance on Mortality Management

In an effort to mitigate some issues related to animal mortality, CDFA has developed [“Best Practices During HPAI Livestock: Mortality Management”](#). Besides providing explicit guidance on where and how mortalities should be stored, the infographic can be useful in explaining to neighbors and reporters why roadside pick-ups may be necessary. Lastly, the flyer also provides 24/7 emergency contact information to use if a mortality collection disruption occurs in a dairy.

There have been earlier reports of delays in animal mortality collection, but currently all three livestock rendering facilities in the state are reporting regular pick-ups. Should delays become an issue again, there are plans in place to allow for temporary on-site storage until they can be picked up or taken to the renderer. This process will be coordinated with the county local enforcement agency (LEA) and considered on a case-by-case basis. Should rendering facilities become completely overwhelmed additional emergency plans can be implemented.

CDFA Flow Chart for Movement Permitting

To clarify requirements related to what animal movements require permits, CDFA has created the [“California Dairy Producer Guide to Intrastate HPAI Cattle Movements”](#). This flowchart graphically explains answers to some frequent questions for producers regarding issues such as “direct-to-slaughter”, permitting cull cow movement and heifer movement to calf ranches.

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Wolf Activity

CDFW has posted its [Quarterly Wolf News Updates: July - September 2024 \(PDF\)](#), a new [Approximate Area of Gray Wolf Activity Map \(November 2024\)\(PDF\)](#), and five new depredation determinations for September and October.

CDFW's most recent Quarterly Wolf News Update: July - September 2024, highlights known packs, areas of wolf activity, wolf-livestock depredation investigations, and program communications for the quarter.

The new map of Approximate Area of Gray Wolf Activity reflects known wolf activity as of November 2024 based on CDFW's monitoring of the species in the state.

New Wolf-Livestock Depredation Determinations include:

- 9/5/2024 - Plumas County - Confirmed
- 9/27/2024 - Plumas County - Confirmed
- 10/3/2024 - Plumas County - Confirmed
- 10/7/2024 - Tulare County - Confirmed
- 10/15/2024 - Plumas County - Confirmed

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Tell Us What You Think About Wolf-Livestock Compensation Programs

We are asking for your help to understand livestock producers' thoughts about wolf-livestock compensation programs. We ask that you or another member of your household or company over the age of 18 please complete the following questionnaire in the next few days.

The accuracy of the conclusions we make depends on opinions from all livestock producers being represented, so even if you live outside of the current range of wolves or have not applied for compensation in the past, your participation is still very much needed and greatly encouraged.

The questionnaire should take less than 15-20 minutes to complete and you may access it [here](#) or at https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6rpiJsLzONkw5xQ.

This research study is part of a requirement for Tyler Allen to complete his Master's degree, and this study is not being funded by any agency or organization. Participation is voluntary, responses are confidential, and you can refuse to answer any question(s) for any reason.



We value your time and opinions. Completing this questionnaire will help us understand how livestock producers think about, engage with, or engage with compensation programs.

If you have questions about this questionnaire, please contact Tyler Allen at Tyler.Allen@oregonstate.edu or (503) 998-9537. Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cbbf.com

Golden State Dairy Management Conference

[Register Here For Dairy Management Conference](#)

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Clean Truck Check Enforcement Beginning

Beginning Tuesday, November 19, 2024, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will require all vehicles entering California ports and railyards to be compliant with Clean Truck Check. To avoid any disruptions in operation, please ensure that your vehicle(s) are compliant with the Clean Truck Check program by:

- Reporting vehicles in the [Clean Truck Check database \(CTC-VIS\)](#)
- Ensure the annual compliance fee is paid by the deadline noted in your [CTC-VIS](#) account on January 1, 2025.

You may test up to 90 days prior to the vehicle's testing deadline to provide time for any necessary repairs.

To support a smooth transition, vehicles denied access due to non-compliance will have the option to apply for a **5-day pass** to provide temporary access while annual compliance fees are processed after the vehicle has been reported.

Payment Processing Times

- **Credit or Debit Card Payments:** Processed within 1-2 business days.
- **eChecks:** This can take up to 7 business days.



The poster features a yellow map of California with a black and white cow silhouette. Text includes: 'Golden State Dairy Management Conference', 'UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources', 'Golden State Dairy Management Conference', 'November 18, 2024', '11am - 3:30pm ~ Modesto, CA', 'Scan the QR code for conference details or visit <https://ucanr.edu/p/75023>', 'California research to address dairy needs', 'We're excited to welcome Corey Geiger, Lead Dairy Economist of CoBank's Knowledge Exchange as our keynote speaker to discuss dairy's bright future.', 'Scientific sessions will provide research updates from University of California Advisors, Specialists and Faculty.', and 'Questions: jmheguy@ucdavis.edu or 209.525.6800'. A QR code is also present.

To minimize disruptions and avoid delays, we encourage you to address compliance requirements as soon as possible. Should you have any questions or require assistance with the compliance process, our team is available to support you at hdim@arb.ca.gov Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com