

Weekly Ag Radio Report
Tom Getts, UCCE Weed and Crops Advisor
March 16, 2016

Morning, this is Tom Getts down at the Lassen County Cooperative Extension office with your weekly Ag report.

Well after a relatively dry February, the beginning of March has been pretty wet. The CIMIS station out in Buntingville has registered 1.68 inches over the past two weeks which is great news! Although as much as the moisture is appreciated, in a way it is a catch 22 because it makes it hard to get out into the field with equipment. But if the forecast holds it looks like we should have a few days of dry weather coming up.

Just an update from a couple of months ago on the snowpack situation. Currently snowpack is estimated to be at a 100 percent of average up here in the northern Sierra, which is much better than last year, but not the bumper year we were hoping for with El Nino. The central Sierra is also looking good with 99% of average, but unfortunately the southern Sierra is only sitting at 77% or average for this time of year. Hopefully we get a few more storms up in the high country over the next few weeks, especially down south to fill up those reservoirs.

I have a question for you all, does it matter to you what time the clock says? Daylight Savings time was adopted in the US back in 1918, and it has quite a history, with adoption in certain parts of the world and not others. California voters approved the adoption of Daylight Savings time back in 1948. Many people are proponents and others are fierce critics of the practice. In my opinion there are the same number of hours of sunlight in the day, so it doesn't really matter to me what time my watch says. Apparently just last month California State Assembly member Kansen Chu proposed a bill to get rid of Daylight Savings time in California. California would instead observe standard Pacific Time the entire calendar year. So if you have an opinion either way, now might be a good time to contact our local State Assembly member.

Well, because I have to at least mention weeds in an Ag report, did you hear about the goats up in Salem, Oregon, last month? The city used 75 goats in a city park to suppress invasive weed species, and they successfully ate loads of weedy blackberry and English ivy! Unfortunately the City disbanded the program because the goats also ate all of the desirable vegetation as well. When used properly, grazing with different type of animals can be a great tool to suppress certain types of weeds and completely control others. Certain animal species will target different type of plants, and goats will eat some of the nastiest invasive weed species. If you want to read the whole story about the goats in Salem, I will post a link in this ag report on the Cooperative extension web site:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2016/02/25/salem-gives-goats-boot/80860622/>

Also don't miss out on the Lassen County Farm Bureau Scholarship. The application deadline is this Friday March 18th and applications need to be completed and postmarked by Friday in order to be considered by the committee. Five thousand dollars in scholarships will be given out to students pursuing a college degree related to agriculture. Both high school students graduating this spring, and current college students are highly encouraged to apply. Good luck to all of the applicants!