

Subject: National Agriculture Week Salute

Story Summary: National Agriculture Week and National Agriculture Day, March 20, remind us not to take food for granted and to thank the people who produce it--like the vegetable farmers in Yuma, Arizona. Without them, we wouldn't have a year-round supply of fresh vegetables at affordable prices.

TRT: 1:54

Suggested Lead: National Agriculture Week honors the men and women who grow our food. As Stewart Truelsen reports from Yuma, Arizona--one of the things we can thank them for is a year round supply of fresh produce.

Suggested Supers: Yuma, AZ
@ :03

Tim Dunn
Arizona Farmer
@ :09

Jim Clayton
Arizona Farmer
@ :36

Hank Auza
Arizona Farmer
@ 1:22

Stewart Truelsen
Reporting
@ 1:45

Anchor tag out: Yuma hasn't had a killing frost in 60 years, which is another reason it is a great place to grow vegetables.

National Agriculture Week --Yuma, Nation's Winter Salad Bowl
Stewart Truelsen Reporting
March 18, 2002

<p>Close-up of lettuce head in field as worker cuts it off/ Worker trims lettuce head and places on conveyor/ pan of harvest/</p>	<p>VO/ IF YOU ATE FRESH SALAD OVER THE WINTER MONTHS, CHANCES ARE IT CAME FROM YUMA, ARIZONA, AMERICA'S WINTER VEGETABLE CAPITAL.</p>
<p>Tim Dunn Arizona Farmer</p> <p>Sound bite</p>	<p>SOT/ BASICALLY 95 PERCENT OF THE LETTUCE IN THE UNITED STATES COMES FROM THIS TOWN IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY.</p>
<p>Commuter farm workers from Mexico/ Celery harvest/</p>	<p>VO/ A DAY IN THE LIFE OF YOUR SALAD BEGINS EARLY. BEFORE DAWN, FARM WORKERS CROSS THE BORDER TO WORK IN THE FIELDS. A FAST, EFFICIENT LABOR FORCE IS ESSENTIAL TO FEEDING THE NATION.</p>
<p>mechanical harvest of baby leaf spinach/</p>	<p>VO/ RESPONDING TO CONSUMER TASTES AND PREFERENCES, FARMERS ARE GROWING MORE VARIETY. BABY LEAF SPINACH IS ONE OF THE NEW FAVORITES.</p>
<p>Jim Clayton Arizona Farmer</p> <p>Taylor Farms salad processing plant/ chopping, shredding bagging salad/</p>	<p>SOT/ FROM LAST YEAR TO THIS YEAR WE ARE UP ABOUT 50 PERCENT, ACRES BASED. SPINACH IS DEFINITELY A BIG ITEM. I THINK THE BAG SALADS, ICEBERG SALADS AND DIFFERENT ROMAINE SALADS ARE STILL GOING UP. YOUR HEAD LETTUCE, BULK LETTUCE IS GOING DOWN A LITTLE BIT.</p>
<p>Canadian truck at Taylor farms loading dock/ loading red leaf lettuce cartons in the field/</p>	<p>VO/ THIS TRUCK ARRIVED FROM CANADA TO LOAD UP FROM YUMA'S SALAD BOWL. SUPPLY-DEMAND HAS TIPPED PRICES IN THE GROWER'S FAVOR.</p>

<p>Tim Dunn sound bite</p> <p>broccoli harvest/</p>	<p>SOT/ RIGHT NOW WE ARE COMING OFF ONE OF THE BEST VEGETABLE CROPS WE'VE HAD AND THAT'S BASICALLY WEATHER RELATED BECAUSE IT'S BEEN A LITTLE BIT COLDER AND THE SUPPLY HAS GONE DOWN JUST A LITTLE BIT, ENOUGH TO MAKE IT A LITTLE BIT OF SHORTAGE.</p>
<p>pan from fields to farmer walking along irrigation ditch/ tractor in field/</p>	<p>VO/ NOT ALL IS GOOD FOR FARMERS. A DETRIMENTAL WATER RIGHTS PROVISION ENDED UP IN THE SENATE FARM BILL, AND A THEFT RING HAS DRIVEN DOZENS OF TRACTORS INTO MEXICO.</p>
<p>Hank Auza Arizona Farmer</p> <p>Sound bite</p>	<p>SOT/ WELL, IF THE GATE WAS OPEN YOU JUST GO STRAIGHT THROUGH TO THE BUSHES. THERE'S SEVERAL LITTLE ROADS AND THINGS AND THEN YOU JUST DRIVE ACROSS THE RIVER. YOU GET A BIG FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE TRACTOR, YOU CAN GO THROUGH PRETTY DEEP WATER AND COME OUT THE OTHER SIDE.</p>
<p>Tractor approaches gate to pass through/ Placing ID decal on tractor/</p>	<p>VO/ SPECIAL GATES AT CAB LEVEL HAVE BEEN INSTALLED AT LIKELY CROSSINGS. IDENTIFICATION DECALS AND ENGINE KILL SWITCHES ARE BEING TRIED.</p>
<p>Farm fields and mountains/ Lettuce harvest</p>	<p>VO/ WITHOUT THIS GARDEN SPOT IN THE DESERT SOUTHWEST, WE WOULDN'T HAVE FRESH SALADS YEAR ROUND. IN YUMA, I'M STEWART TRUELSEN.</p>

Anchor tag out: Yuma, Arizona hasn't had a killing frost in 60 years, which is another reason it's a great place to grow vegetables.