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USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: The Des Moines Register

U.S. farm income expected to fall as costs for fertilizer, other production expenses climb sharply

Iowa and U.S. farmers can expect income from crops and livestock production to tumble, with costs spiking and government payments falling, the U.S. Department of Agriculture says in a forecast for 2022.

Agriculture department economist Carrie Litkowski said the agency expects U.S. farm income to fall to \$113.7 billion, down \$9.7 billion, or 7.9%, from 2021. Last year's farm income hit the highest level since 2016, with corn and soybean prices closing in on record highs set in 2012 and 2013.

Farming is a significant economic driver in Iowa, which leads the nation in corn, hog and egg production, and is second to Illinois in soybean production. Agriculture ripples through the state's economy, with ties to equipment manufacturing, insurance, seed and renewable fuel production — another category Iowa leads.

The state ranks second only to California when it comes to the size of its farm economy.

Fixing broken supply chain will require major change in Long Beach, port chief say

Southern California's vital Port of Long Beach is still dealing with a backlog of waiting cargo vessels, its top official said Wednesday in renewing calls for transforming the supply chain into a round-the-clock operation.

In an annual state-of-the-port address, Executive Director Mario Cordero also outlined infrastructure and technology plans for improving movement of goods but said the issue goes beyond operations of the port.

About 40% of the container cargo entering the U.S. comes through the Port of Long Beach and the adjacent Port of Los Angeles, and both moved record volume last year. In October, President Biden announced a plan for round-the-clock operations, but it hasn't happened.



Foto: Los Angeles Times

Fuente

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2022/02/06/2022-farm-income-expected-fall-production-fertilizer-feed-costs-rise/6665786001/>

Fuente

<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2022-02-09/port-of-long-beach-supply-chain>



Foto: businessinsider.com

White House unveils \$5 billion plan to blanket US highways with new electric-car chargers

Right now one of the glaring reasons not to own an electric car is the charging. Gas stations are a dime a dozen, but charging plugs in much of the country are few and far between. That may not be the case for long if President Joe Biden's plan comes to fruition.

The US Departments of Energy and Transportation announced on Thursday that they will dole out nearly \$5 billion over the next five years to help states beef up access to electric-vehicle charging. It's part of the White House's broader goal to curb climate change and get more Americans into zero-emission vehicles.

Biden aims for the US to have 500,000 public EV chargers by 2030, roughly 400,000 more plugs than are available today.

Biden says he has done 'deep dive' on 4 possible Supreme Court candidates

President Joe Biden said Thursday that he's done a "deep dive" on four potential candidates to succeed Justice Stephen Breyer on the US Supreme Court, but he declined to name any of the prospective nominees.

"I've taken about four people and done the deep dive on them, meaning thorough background checks, to see if there's anything in the background that would make them not qualified," Biden told NBC News' Lester Holt in an interview taped Thursday.

The White House this week indicated that Biden remains on track to select a nominee before his self-imposed end-of-February deadline. The President has said he plans to nominate a Black woman to the high court, which would be a historic first. DC Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, California Supreme Court Justice Leandra Kruger and South Carolina US District Court Judge J. Michelle Childs have been widely viewed as an early short list.



Foto: edition.cnn.com

Fuente

<https://www.businessinsider.com/biden-electric-car-charging-stations-national-network-plan-tesla-2022-2>

Fuente

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/02/10/politics/biden-four-supreme-court-candidates/index.html>



NICHOLAS KAHN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Foto: edition.cnn.com

What the workplace harassment law reform will mean for you

"Long overdue." "It will help us fix a broken system." "You're going to have a chance to be heard differently." That's how lawmakers from both parties are describing the workplace harassment legislation that passed the Senate on Thursday after years of deliberations. It now heads to President Joe Biden's desk for his signature, and the White House has expressed full support for the measure.

The bill, called the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act, bans forced arbitration in cases involving sexual

misconduct and allows victims the option of bringing up the dispute in federal, tribal or state court.

Once signed into law, the legislation will void any forced arbitration clauses in current contracts pertaining to sexual assault or sexual harassment, allowing victims to take their cases to court. Companies will be prohibited from writing those clauses into contracts in the future. Any case previously settled through forced arbitration, however, will remain closed.