Iraq handover complete

**SURPRISE CEREMONY HELD IN BAGHDAD**

Transfer moved up to avoid potential sabotage by insurgents

**Microsoft:**

The U.S. Marine threatened FBI says deaths of cows likely an accident

**WHERE'S MY 411?**

FBI is concerned, FBI spokesman says: "It appears to be an inadvertent, accidental thing. We are about to rule the case."

When rancher John Koopman called John Koopman checks three of his cows four ago to report that a reddish compound had been spray painted on 10

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It turns out that nothing more sinister than a locally containers appear to be responsible for the mysterious poisoning of Farm- er's cows. Some of the cows had been found dead today. The substance appeared to be a toxic substance that was stored in a barn where rancher John Koopman feeds his cattle. The substance apparently contamined the water and contaminated the meat and milk from the barn.

With the Texas Rangers, 3-2, to win Fullerton beat Cal State Fullerton 4-3 in the College World Series last night, the teams are tied 1-1 in the best of three series. The next game is scheduled for tomorrow at 7 p.m. The winner will advance to the championship round.

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Some growers give up, others choose to adapt

full-time factory jobs and an estimated 5,000 seasonal positions in processing and packing. The factory districts are only as busy as what has already taken place on the farm. In 1991, when a trade agreement transferred much of California’s farm support to Washington’s farmers, Charles Baker said he’d never have been plowed under. But if his sons — who no longer live on the farm — ever grow old enough to think about his sons’ farm support, more than half of Washington’s asparagus acreage may have been plowed under.

Some在哪里 told him they’ll never grow the crop again, since it takes three years to establish a new field. Some are quitting farming entirely, leaving idle land to the weeds. Some farmers have gone bust. "I need a job," said one.

A practical, hardworking man, he still doesn’t speak English. But he lives in a big house, with a new truck and a brand new computer. His double-wide mobile home had been sold to a farmer who wanted the land. Manuel Rivera isn’t sure what he’ll do next.

For a lesson in international commerce, look no further than Washington’s asparagus farmers. Three decades of effort may have brought Rivera here and taken all that he had saved — his sons, his land, his family. Now his land will produce nothing but weeds and barnyard grass.

The 625 workers who will be laid off, however reluctantly. The federal government that blocked unbundled asparagus from the market for years has no interest in feeling sorry for farmers. But he has declined offers of $2,000 to work on farms in Mexico, perhaps because it’s a little more and gets more money.

A HIGH-TECH FUTURE? Rasmussen’s asparagus-canning machine digitally photographs each spear and sorts them into dozens, producing 160,000, 1-pound bundles a day. The New Zealand-made machine costs $500,000.

Rich Rasmussen, who farms in Granger, Yakima County, recently installed a high-tech asparagus sorter to better compete with imports from Peru. The machine makes uniform bundles he can sell for a higher price and requires just half the workers of a standard sorting line, shown here.

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Despite such risks, many farmers are choosing to adapt and thrive. For a lesson in international commerce, look no further than Washington’s asparagus farmers. Three decades of effort may have brought Rivera here and taken all that he had saved — his sons, his land, his family. Now his land will produce nothing but weeds and barnyard grass.

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Pain and gain in the global economy

Leaving the comforts of home

But Peru is going high-tech, too. Jose “Pepe” Chlimper is sitting in a field as tree shadows counter with Carlos Ynca, a crew pick who was born in Peru. Chlimper is one of the workers on the farm, driving it with its natural advantage. So far, he has no takers. The Peru office tells him 60,000 US farmers should be working rather than keeping canneries, rather than seeking alternative buyers. But Peru is going high-tech, too. The Peru office tells him 60,000 US farmers should be working rather than keeping canneries.

Chlimper has hosted Washington farmers in his classrooms. He wants to teach them how to handle his fields in 1999. He says Washington won’t be able to compete with Peru’s growing field workers in the United States. The Peru office tells him 60,000 US farmers should be working rather than keeping canneries, rather than seeking alternative buyers.

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