

Today is _____, _____ the _____. This is Ken Morgan's Northcoast Ag Report, our lead story is about _____ when we return

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association calls an agreement between President Donald Trump and the President of China to open China back up to U.S. beef exports a victory for U.S. beef producers. The agreement emerged after the two officials met in Florida last week. NCBA director of International trade Kent Bacus says it followed action by NCBA and members of Congress...tape

Cut #1 _____ :34 OC:... "priority issue."

Moving forward, Bacus says there still technical barriers to trade that need to be removed before the U.S. can ship beef to China...tape

Cut #2 _____ :13 OC:... "Chinese market."

He says the Chinese market is valuable for U.S. beef producers...tape

Cut #3 _____ :23 OC:... "and Shanghai."

The greater China region, which includes China, Hong Kong and Vietnam, is estimated as a \$7 billion beef market.

White House Plans to Tackle Tough Issues First in NAFTA Talks

The Donald Trump administration is considering front-loading the upcoming renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement by negotiating the political issues first, ahead of more technical talks. A former official at the U.S. Trade Representative's office told Politico this week the idea would be to "have a lot of those high-level discussions with principals at the beginning, and find out within the

first few months: Is this doable or not?" Typical trade negotiations put technical talks first and saves the tougher political issues until near the end of talks. Jeff Weiss, who has served in the USTR office and just recently left the Commerce Department, says discussions surrounding the potential elimination of Chapter 19 dispute settlement, which the U.S. wants, as well as intellectual property issues with Mexico and dairy talks with Canada, will likely be some of the toughest areas of negotiations. NAFTA renegotiations could start in July, after a formal waiting period required following notification to Congress by the Trump administration.

FARM BUREAU'S SPRING MARKETBASKET SHOWS LOWER FOOD PRICES

Audio with AFBF market intelligence director John Newton

The Spring Marketbasket survey by the American Farm Bureau Federation found total cost of 16 staple food items dropped this year to \$50.03, down \$3.25 from last year. AFBF market intelligence director John Newton attributes the lower food prices to lower commodity prices...tape

Cut #1 :10 OC:... "was last year."

Newton says that of the 16 items surveyed, 11 decreased, four increased and one remained the same in average price...tape

Cut #2 :15 OC:... "white bread."

He says the year-to-year direction of the Marketbasket survey tracks closely with the federal government's Consumer Price Index...tape

Cut #3 :16 OC:... "United States."

That's AFBF market intelligence director John Newton.