

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

AFBF URGING SUPPORT OF REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Audio with AFBF environment and energy policy director Paul Schlegel

A bill that would make critical reforms to the rulemaking process is scheduled to be considered by a Senate committee possibly as early as next week. The Regulatory Accountability Act is an amendment to the Administrative Procedure Act, the blueprint for how federal regulations are proposed and promulgated. The law has not been updated since 1946. American Farm Bureau Federation environment and energy policy director Paul Schlegel says the amendment would ensure a fairer process for future regulations...tape

Cut #1 :24 OC:... "them deference."

He says the bill offers a standard process for federal agencies to follow when making new regulations...tape

Cut #2 :23 OC:... "deserves support."

The bill is expected to appear for mark-up in the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs committee soon. Schlegel says farmers and ranchers need to make their voices heard...tape

Cut #3 :13 OC:... "it's important."

USDA Announces Delay, Reconsideration of Organic Livestock Rule

The Department of Agriculture Tuesday announced it would delay implementation of the final Organic Livestock Standards rule until November 14th, 2017. The rule was published in January in the final days of the Obama administration, and USDA is taking an additional six months to allow time for further consideration. The effective date for this rule was initially March 20th, 2017, and was subsequently

delayed to May 19th, 2017, by a document published in the Federal Register in February. The final rule amends the organic livestock and poultry production requirements by adding new provisions for livestock handling and transport for slaughter and avian living conditions, and expands and clarifies existing requirements covering livestock care and production practices and living conditions. Comments may be submitted to USDA until June 9th, 2017 online at Regulations dot gov (www.regulations.gov).