

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

## **Washington State Working on Legislation to Help Farmers Retire**

### **Audio with Vancouver Republican Vicki Kraft**

Washington State lawmakers are setting their priorities for the 2018 legislative session, including legislation to help farmers retire.

Vancouver, Washington Republican Vicki Kraft says she's working on legislation that stems from a farmer in Clark County who was no longer actively farming his property. The County looked to collect on deferred taxes, saying the property was no longer farm land.

Kraft says the legislation she's working on will not punish farmers who decide to retire in Washington at the age of 60...tape

Cut #1 \_\_\_\_\_ :20 OC:... "penalties or fees."

Kraft says the proposal would also pertain to farmers who stopped farming due to a disability...tape

Cut #2 \_\_\_\_\_ :15 OC:... "those penalties."

Kraft says she's still working to finalize her legislation, and hopes to have it prepared for the 2018 legislative session come January.

### **Head of USDA Organic Program Stepping Down**

**The leader of the Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program will step down at the end of the month. Miles McEvoy (Mac-o-voy), will vacate the position overseeing the program and return to his home state of Washington. McEvoy led the program that oversees organic regulations and the USDA organic seal for eight years.**

**McEvoy told Fern's Ag Insider that his original plan was to run the program for five years. After eight years at USDA, he says the program is now stronger, offering better quality inspectors, certifiers and work. He says the Trump administration and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue favor "increased enforcement and authority" for the program, and do not have any desire to weaken the program. McEvoy says he has no plans yet for what he may do next, but says he is not retiring, rather "just stepping down from the government service."**