

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

The White House and GOP Congressional leaders are considering ditching estate tax repeal and other tax breaks that Democrats charge, favor the wealthy.

The idea is to pick up Democratic votes by shaping tax reform more toward the middle-class. Democrats argue estate tax repeal would benefit only the wealthy, those who die with more than \$5.5 million in their estates, and would boost the federal debt. Republicans say the tax levied at death is unfair and needs to go.

American Farm Bureau Federation tax adviser Pat Wolff...tape

Cut #1 :23 OC:... "just not true."

Wolff has argued for years that the estate tax impacts middle-income farmers and ranchers who need repeal, to pass their businesses onto the next generation...tape

Cut #2 :27 OC:... "middle-income taxpayer."

The Washington Post reports that reconsideration of key parts of the GOP tax plan just a week before leader say they'll unveil a plan, says there could still be changes or reversals. Wolff offers this...tape

Cut #3 :12 OC:... "to be in there."

2016 Organic Sales Up 23 Percent

Sales of organic agriculture products increased 23 percent in 2016, compared with levels from 2015, according to the Department of

Agriculture. The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service released the annual Certified Organic Survey Wednesday. The survey finds U.S. farms produced and sold \$7.6 billion in certified organic commodities, up 23 percent from \$6.2 billion in 2015. During the same year, the number of certified organic farms in the country increased 11 percent to 14,217, and the number of certified acres increased 15 percent to five million. California, with \$2.9 billion in certified organic sales, continued to lead the nation in certified sales, accounting for 38 percent of the U.S. total. Ten states accounted for 77 percent of U.S. certified organic sales, virtually the same share as in 2015 and 2014. Top organic commodities, according to USDA, include milk, eggs, broiler chickens, apples and lettuce.