

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

The GOP tax plan leaves many unanswered questions, including for farmers and ranchers. An American Farm Bureau official says the answers will be filled in over the next several weeks.

What is known about the GOP plan is that it reduces the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent, and the individual rates from a top rate of almost 40 percent to 35 percent with a business rate of 25 percent.

But, American Farm Bureau tax specialist Pat Wolff says that leaves open the question of how producers' income will be taxed...tape

Cut #1 _____ :15 OC:... "the individual rate."

A majority of farmers pay taxes as sole proprietors under the individual code, not the corporate rate, which could end up having them pay the new 25-percent business rate, versus the even lower 20-percent corporate rate, or some mix.

Meanwhile, Wolff says while the GOP plan proposes ending the estate tax, it is silent on a related issue...tape

Cut #2 _____ :34 OC:... "incorporated businesses."

The House will vote on a budget bill this week that could clear the way for committee action on a tax bill in the next few weeks. The Senate hopes to complete committee action on its bill by November 13th.

San Francisco Enacting Law to Require Stores to Report Antibiotics Use in Livestock

A new ordinance in San Francisco requires grocery stores to report antibiotic use in the raising of livestock at the city's approximately 120 stores that sell meat to the public. The San Francisco Examiner reports that the order by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors wants the grocery chains to collect the information and provide annual reports to the city's Department of Environment for distribution to consumers. The lawmakers say the goal of the ordinance is to spark a marketplace shift to antibiotic-free meat and poultry, and say the use of antibiotics to speed up growth or protect confined animals has been partly blamed for an uptick in antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The new ordinance does not target processors or producers but includes penalties, including a civil penalty of as much as \$1,000 per day, for grocery chains that do not comply with the reporting standards.