

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

Organic Trade Association Suing USDA Over Livestock Standards

Audio with Nate Lewis, organic farm policy director, Organic Trade Association

The Organic Trade Association is suing the U.S. Department of Agriculture over the USDA decision to withdraw the Organic Livestock Standards proposed and endorsed by most in the organic industry. Nate Lewis, farm policy director for the Organic Trade Association, says the USDA broke the rules when withdrawing the standards without public comment...tape

Cut 1 :39 OC..."additional delay"

Lewis says the decision to withdraw the standards is disappointing because the organic industry wants and needs those standards in place...tape

Cut 2 :23 OC..."the supermarket"

The livestock standards would prevent producers from finding shortcuts around animal care standards and put all organic producers on a level playing field. Lewis also says the standards are important to organic consumers...tape

He says consumer confidence in the organic label is high and they're trying to maintain the integrity of the label with the lawsuit. The proposed organic livestock standards were produced after ten years of work. He says OTA simply wants that effort rewarded.