

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

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue told Congress Tuesday tough times will likely continue on the farm for the next couple of years, but the administration and lawmakers can act to ease some of that pain.

Perdue wasted no time in telling House Ag lawmakers what they already know...tape

Cut #1 :12 OC:... "this time period."

That, he says, makes it harder to boost the farm safety net in a new farm bill. Perdue says tough times are expected to continue, complicated by trade spats with countries like China...tape

Cut #2 :14 OC:... "the cash prices."

But, the administration will not recoil in the face of retaliation while fighting unfair practices elsewhere...tape

Cut #3 :06 OC:... "prepared for that."

Perdue acknowledged that agriculture is often the "tip of the spear" in retaliatory measures. But, on the plus side, Perdue voiced new optimism regarding the North American Free Trade Agreement talks...tape

Cut #4 :14 OC:... "end of the year."

Perdue also cited the president's recent suggestion in Davos, Switzerland, the US might get back into the TPP trade deal.

On immigration reform...tape

Cut #5 :14 OC:... "comes up with."

And on Renewable fuels, Perdue says he's talked with the EPA chief and the energy industry about a year-round volatility waiver for E-15 to sustain ethanol use after the RFS expires in 2022...tape

Cut #6 :13 OC:... "15 percent."

A new Harvard study concludes a year-round E-15 waiver would boost "RIN" ethanol credits and lower their price—an issue now at the center of a Senate fight blocking confirmation of key USDA nominee, Bill Northey.