

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

New WOTUS Expected This Year

Audio with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

The Environmental Protection Agency is working to replace the Waters of the U.S. Rule with a new rule by the end of this year. EPA administrator Scott Pruitt says the 2015 rule will soon officially be a thing of the past...tape

Cut #1 _____ :25 _____ OC:...“of the United States.”

The EPA earlier this year moved to extend the start date for the 2015 rule, a move needed to continue a blockade of the rule following a Supreme Court ruling. A recent Supreme Court decision defined jurisdiction of the rule to federal district courts, not federal appeals courts, where a nationwide hold on WOTUS was placed in 2015. The Supreme Court action nullified the lower court delay, which could have allowed WOTUS to go into effect. A substitute rule will replace the 2015 rule while the EPA crafts a new WOTUS.

The substitute rule, Pruitt says, will define what is and what is not considered a federal water...tape

Cut #2 _____ :21 _____ OC:...“United States.”

The previous rule, according to Pruitt, put the EPA “in the driver’s seat” when it comes to regulating land use on public and private lands, including farms.

Pruitt expects the new rule to be completed this year...tape

Cut #3 _____ :16 _____ OC:...“end of the year.”