

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

A farm bill announcement could come this week, and it probably has to, as the clock is about to run out for finishing the bill this year in the outgoing Congress. Washington Correspondent Matt Kaye spoke with the two Senate farm bill negotiators...tape

Cut #1 \_\_\_\_\_ :04 OC:... "white smoke."

Senate Ag Chair Pat Roberts, using a colorful reference to the traditional signal cardinals give when they've chosen a new pope...tape

Cut #2 \_\_\_\_\_ :09 OC:... "very encouraged."

Especially now that top House and Senate leaders have decided against an expansive House forestry title that would have allowed selective logging to help prevent tragic fires like the ones in California...tape

Cut #3 \_\_\_\_\_ :15 OC:... "minimum bill."

President Trump and his secretaries of agriculture and interior had sought the selective logging provisions, opposed by Democrats and environmental groups. Trump also said earlier there was 500-million in the farm bill for fire suppression. But top Senate Ag Democrat and farm bill negotiator Debbie Stabenow had this...tape

Cut #4 \_\_\_\_\_ :07 OC:... "with appropriators."

As for a farm bill that's already a year behind schedule...tape

Cut #5 :13 OC:... "big success."

But, it could be very close. Roberts says the Congressional Budget Office must still 'score' the bill's cost, with just two scheduled-weeks left in the session. He concludes, it "just takes time." However, time, the farm bill doesn't have, amid competing last-minute bills and the president's continuing threat of a partial government shutdown over border wall funding.