

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

Senate Passes Farm Bill

00:00:49.815 2018-12-11

The Senate has passed the Farm Bill and sent it on to the House. (Gary Crawford, Senator's Debbie Stabenow and Pat Roberts)

The House of Representatives is expected to consider and possibly vote on the farm bill Wednesday. Following Tuesday's Senate passage of the bill, action now rests with the House of Representatives which passed its version of the farm bill with strict work requirements under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Those requirements were left out of the final bill.

Speaking Tuesday, House Majority Whip Steve Scalise says its time to move the bill to President Trump...tape

Cut #1 :06 OC:... "the president's desk."

House Speaker Paul Ryan says the bill provides the certainty agriculture needs, and while also focusing on SNAP in his comments, will help people get into the workforce...tape

Cut #3 :10 OC:... "desk momentarily."

RELEASE IMMEDIATE

Dec. 11, 2018

Contact: Dave Kranz

Manager, Communications/News

Division

California Farm Bureau Federation

Phone: 916-561-5550
Cell Phone: 916-719-2056

CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU URGES HOUSE TO PASS FARM BILL

At a time of declining commodity prices, trade disputes and regulatory uncertainty, the California Farm Bureau Federation endorsed the federal farm bill adopted today by the U.S. Senate, and urged quick passage by the House of Representatives.

“With its provisions for nutrition programs as well as farm programs, the farm bill is important in the city as well as on the farm,” CFBF President Jamie Johansson said. “We thank Senators Feinstein and Harris for voting for it, and will urge California congressional members to follow suit.”

Johansson said the bill makes a number of improvements to conservation programs, including the popular Environmental Quality Incentives Program. It continues specific programs for fruit, vegetable, nut and nursery producers, as well as initiatives to benefit organic farming. The bill will also enhance trade programs to encourage exports of American farm goods.

“Farm exports support jobs in rural California, of course, but also in marketing and transportation companies located in our big cities,” Johansson said. “Programs that help California food and farm products reach more customers will boost jobs at ports and warehouses as well as at farms and packinghouses.”

He said Farm Bureau also welcomes farm bill programs to protect animal agriculture from catastrophic diseases, to allow dairy farmers to enroll in risk-management programs and to increase crop-insurance flexibility.

“The farm bill also invests in agricultural research, including studies of ways to mechanize more on-farm tasks,” Johansson said. “Farmers and ranchers face chronic problems in hiring enough qualified people, so this sort of technological research will be closely watched.”

But Johansson said CFBF was disappointed the final bill did not do more to improve wildfire prevention and forest management.

“Given the terrible impact of wildfires in California and elsewhere in the West, we need to manage our forests and wildlands better, and we will be advocating for that in the next Congress,” he said.

The California Farm Bureau Federation works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 36,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 5.6 million Farm Bureau members.

RELEASE IMMEDIATE

Dec. 11, 2018

Contact: Dave Kranz

Manager, Communications/News

Division
California Farm Bureau Federation
Phone: 916-561-5550
Cell Phone: 916-719-2056

REVISED ‘WOTUS’ RULE SHOULD PROVIDE CLARITY, FARM BUREAU SAYS

Stressing that California farmers and ranchers take pride in caring for natural resources, the president of the California Farm Bureau Federation welcomed today’s release of a revised “waters of the United States” rule by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“We will review the proposal carefully in the hope it will restore balance to enforcement of the Clean Water Act,” CFBF President Jamie Johansson said. “The existing WOTUS rule has produced little beyond confusion and litigation, and has undermined farmers’ efforts to work cooperatively with government agencies to protect water and land.”

Farm Bureau has advocated for a rewrite of the 2015 WOTUS rule because of the extensive authority it gave to federal agencies to regulate routine farming activities.

“Farmers want to do the right thing for the land, water and other natural resources under their care,” Johansson said. “Doing the right thing and complying with the law should be clear and easy to understand. We hope the new Clean Water Rule will provide the clarity farmers and ranchers need to allow the continued production of food and farm products while conserving natural resources.”

The California Farm Bureau Federation works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 36,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 5.6 million Farm Bureau members.