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### Senate to Begin Debate on Farm Bill

Debate will begin in Washington soon on a new Farm Bill. The Senate has voted to advance a bill totaling 969 billion dollars over the next ten years, a cut of 23 billion dollars over current agriculture and nutrition spending.

Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson, a Democrat, says he supports eliminating direct farm payments in favor of a greater reliance on crop insurance to stabilize farm income. (play audio :12)

The big change in farm policy if the proposed bill is adopted would be an end to direct crop payments in favor of a shift to crop insurance. Senator Nelson says he is pleased with the proposal from the Senate Ag Committee. (play audio :28)

Nebraska's other U.S. Senator, Republican Mike Johanns, says the bill has a lot of promise. (play audio :22)

Senator Johanns is pleased with the proposal that scuttles direct payments to farmers in favor of offering enhanced crop insurance to help manage risk. (play audio :18)

Johanns is also pleased that the bill focuses more on trade to boost farm income and streamlines conservation programs.

Senate debate on the bill could take a couple of weeks.

Nebraska Radio Network