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Sen. Johanns Comments on Farm Bill Progress

(KTNC) - It's a mess, but still salvageable.

Nebraska Senator Mike Johanns says if Congress can pick up the pieces of the Farm Bill, a new five-year bill could be sent to the president this fall.

Johanns says the Senate could begin negotiations with the House, even though the House hasn't approved the food stamp portion of the bill, but the House Ag Committee chairman wants to wait until that portion has been completed. (play audio :10 "aren't there yet.")

Johanns, a former Secretary of Agriculture, says the bill approved by the Senate this year backed away from the progress made a year ago. (play audio :14 "1950s farm policy.")

If possible, Johanns would like to see a conference in August and a five-year bill sent to the president at the end of September. He says farmers need the certainty of a new five-year bill.

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