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(Regional)-Farm-State Lawmakers Returning Home Empty-Handed



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/19/2012 10:39 AM

WASHINGTON (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - Farm-state members of Congress for decades have campaigned on the back of farm bills delivering election-season subsidies and other goodies to rural voters.

Not this year. The bill is stalled, primarily because House GOP leaders don't want a noisy fight over food stamps this close to the election. That poses a particular problem for some Republicans in tight races for the Senate or House who will go home empty-handed when Congress adjourns this week.

Democratic challengers are using the farm bill as an example of how they say the Republican-run House is ineffective. The issue has affected Senate races in Montana and North Dakota, along with House races in South Dakota, Colorado and Iowa.