

Subject: Death Taxes

Story summary: The U.S. House has passed a bill to phase out death taxes over ten years. Farmers welcome the elimination of the tax they say is a threat to the survival of family farms. Colorado farmer Robert Sakata talks about the threat death taxes present to his farm and way of life.

TRT: 1:39

Suggested lead: Congress reduced the impact of death taxes three years ago, providing some relief for farmers. But now farmers are hoping the latest congressional effort to kill the death taxes outright is successful. Bob Ellison reports.

Suggested Supers:

- Robert Sakata
Adams Co., Colorado Farmer
@ :05
- Pat Wolff
American Farm Bureau
@ :12
- Bob Ellison reporting
@ 1:31

Death Tax Threatens Family Farms
Bob Ellison reporting
June 22, 2000

Sakata pulling weed	VO/ DEATH TAXES COULD MEAN THE END OF FARMING AS ROBERT SAKATA KNOWS IT.
Robert Sakata farmer Corn field	SOT/ IF MY MOTHER AND FATHER WERE TO PASS AWAY TOMORROW, HEAVEN FORBID, I WOULD HAVE TO SELL OFF HALF OF MY PROPERTY JUST TO PAY THE ESTATE TAX.
Pat Wolff AFBF	VO/ NOW FARMERS ARE PROPERTY RICH. THEY OWN LAND, THEY OWN EQUIPMENT, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE HUGE RESERVES OF CASH. THE GOVERNMENT WON'T TAKE YOUR COW. THEY WANT CASH. AND SO WHAT FARMERS HAVE TO DO IS SELL THEIR BUSINESS ASSETS TO COME UP WITH THE CASH TO PAY THE GOVERNMENT.
Ellison vo Sakata and boy walking Forklift driver	VO/ AND SELLING OFF LAND WOULD AFFECT A LOT MORE THAN JUST SAKATA'S LIFE AS A FARMER. IT WOULD ALSO THE AFFECT THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR HIM, SOME OF WHOM WOULD BE LET GO IF HE SOLD LAND.
Sakata Sakata and production manager Sakata Production manager	SOT/ WE HAVE THIRD GENERATION PEOPLE THAT ARE WORKING FOR US. I MEAN THEY ARE MORE LIKE FAMILY. I'VE GROWN UP WITH THEM. I CONSIDER OUR PRODUCTION MANAGER, HE'S MORE LIKE MY UNCLE THAN AN EMPLOYEE.
Field and development	VO/ THE SAKATAS' ESTATE TAXES WOULD BE VERY HIGH BECAUSE

	SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENT HAS BOOSTED PROPERTY VALUES.
Sakata Wal-Mart Sakata farms sign	SOT/ SO EVEN THE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL PLANNING WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD FOR THE ESTATE TAXES HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE INCREASED VALUE OF THE LAND.
Field and mountains	VO/ THE FIFTY YEARS OLD SAKATA FARM IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM BECOMING REALITY.
Sakata Robert Jr. and Robert Sr. Robert Sr. Robert Jr.	SOT/ MY FATHER STARTED THE FARM HERE. AFTER WORLD WAR TWO HE ENDED UP IN COLORADO AND HAS JUST BUILT UP THE OPERATION FROM LITERALLY NOTHING.
Sakata walking in cabbage field CU/Sakata	VO/ SAKATA SAYS A BILL PASSED BY THE U-S HOUSE TO PHASE-OUT ESTATE TAXES OVER TEN YEARS MAY BE WHAT KEEPS FARM FAMILIES ON THE FARM.
Sakata	SOT/ IF PEOPLE REALLY WANT AGRICULTURE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES THE ESTATE TAX REALLY DOES NEED TO BE REPEALED.
Capitol Dome pan to Senate	VO/ WITH THE DEATH TAX PHASE-OUT PASSED BY THE HOUSE, THE MEASURE NOW HEADS TO THE SENATE FOR A LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL VOTE. IN WASHINGTON, I'M BOB ELLISON REPORTING.