

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**July 5, 1999**

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LAST WEEK -

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL YIELDS GRIDLOCK – Once again, the Senate version of the agriculture appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2000 (S. 1233) remained stymied, due to debate on other issues. By midweek, Senate leaders had agreed to a plan, which would schedule the Senate to debate managed healthcare issues following the Independence Day recess. As a result, the Senate was only able to complete action on legislation making appropriations for foreign operations. Congressional staff have indicated that the agriculture bill will not return to the Senate floor until late in July.

BEXAR MEDINA ATASCOSA WATERSHED MARKUP – On Wednesday, the House Agriculture Committee approved by voice vote, a resolution authorizing the Bexar Medina and Atascosa Counties watershed project under the NRCS Small watershed Program. The P.L. 566 project involves primarily irrigation system improvement in southern Texas and would improve recharge of the Edwards Aquifer, which is the source of drinking water for 1.3 million people. The Senate Agriculture Committee must approve the project, before it becomes a fully authorized small watershed project.

LEGISLATION OF NOTE

The following Bills of significance to NRCS and conservation have been introduced.

BILL	MEMBER	PURPOSE
H.R. 2202	Woolsey, (Ca)	To promote acquisition of conservation easements on eligible farmlands and prevent incompatible development in Marin and Sonoma Counties, CA.
H.R. 2221	McIntosh, (IN)	To prohibit the use of Federal funds to implement the Kyoto Protocol to the United

		Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change until the Senate gives advise and consent.
H.R. 2233	Watts, (OK)	To provide relief from Federal tax liability arising from the settlement of claims brought by African American Farmers against USDA.
H.R. 2237	Gilman	To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide emergency assistance to apple and onion producers in the State of New York who incurred extensive crop losses in 1998.
S. 1303	Murkowski, (AK)	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain provisions relating to the treatment of forestry activities.

THIS WEEK

RECESS - Congress will be in adjournment for the Independence Day recess until July 12.

LOOKING AHEAD

SMALL WATERSHEDS REHABILITATION MARKUP - The Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Resource Conservation, and Credit (Chairman, Barrett, R-NE) of the House Agriculture Committee will hold a business meeting to discuss and amend H.R. 728 introduced by Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK). The legislation would provide authorization and funding for NRCS to rehabilitate aging watershed structures.

July 13 10:00 am 1300 Longworth Building

CONSERVATION RESERVE OVERSIGHT - The Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Resource Conservation, and Credit (Chairman, Barrett, R-NE) of the House Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing on the administration of the Conservation and Reserve Program.

July 22 10:30 am 1300 Longworth Building

ESTUARIES AND COASTAL WATER HEARING – The Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee (Chairman Boehlert, R-NR) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing on estuaries and coastal water qualities

legislation. The bill, H. R. 1775 would catalyze restoration of estuary habitat through more efficient financing of projects and enhanced coordination of federal and non-federal restoration programs and for other purposes.

July 13

1:00 p.m.

2167 Rayburn Bldg.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP – The Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee (Chairman Saxton, R-N.J.) of the House Resources Committee will mark up H.R. 1110, a pending bill to reauthorize and amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.

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