

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**June 1, 1998**

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LAST WEEK:

MEMORIAL DAY RECESS - Both the House and Senate were out of session last week in observance of Memorial Day.

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LEGISLATION OF NOTE-

The following bills of significance to NRCS and conservation were recently introduced:

Bill	Member	Purpose
S. 2116	Lugar (R-IN)	The bill would clarify and enhance the authorities of the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Agriculture.

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THIS WEEK

WETLANDS LEGISLATION - On Thursday, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is slated to mark up H.R. 1290, legislation that would establish a national wetlands mitigation banking program. The legislation is sponsored by Rep. Water B. Jones (R-NC).

June 4 1:30 p.m. 2167 Rayburn Building

FOREST SERVICE SPENDING - On Thursday, the House Agriculture Committee (Chairman Bob Smith, R-OR) will conduct a hearing to review the off-budget funds administered by the Forest Service.

June 4 10:00 am 1300 Longworth Building

BUDGET RESOLUTION - Later this week, the House of Representatives is slated to consider H.Con Res 284, the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 1999. The Resolution seeks to reduce government-wide spending by about \$100 billion over five years. Most cuts contained in the measure are set to kick in after FY 2002. The resolution was passed by the House Budget Committee on May 20th.

APPROPRIATIONS BILLS - Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have begun staff work on Fiscal Year 1999 spending bills. Staff have indicated that markups on agriculture appropriations could be held as early as this week, with action more likely during the second week in June.

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NEXT WEEK:

LIVESTOCK ISSUES - Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Lugar, R-Ind.) will hold a hearing on livestock issues including demand, overseas development, pricing, industry structuring and other related subjects.

June 10 9 AM SR-328A Russell Bldg.

METHYL BROMIDE PHASE-OUT - Forestry, Resource Conservation, and Research Subcommittee (Chairman Combest, R-Texas) of House Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) phase-out of methyl bromide, an ozone-depleting pesticide used to control insects, nematodes, weeds, pathogens, and rodents.

June 10 10 AM 1300 Longworth Bldg.

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