

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

December 17, 2001

Office of Legislative Affairs
Room 5121 South Agriculture Bldg.
(202) 720-2771

For additional information contact:

Douglas J. McKalip
Eric W. Carlson
Sharyn C. Alvarez

LAST WEEK:

CONTINUING RESOLUTION: A seventh continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 78 was passed by the House and cleared by the Senate on December 13, 2001. This resolution would keep the government in full operation through December 21, 2001.

SENATE FARM BILL DEBATE CONTINUES - This week the Senate continued debate on the Farm Bill, S. 1731 and considered several amendments to the legislation, including the following:

- Crapo (ID) to remove minimum Dairy price supports – **Defeated (57-47)**
- Lugar (IN) to shift funding in the Commodity and Nutrition Titles – **Defeated (70-30)**
- Gregg (NH) sugar subsidy phase-out – **Defeated (71-29)**
- Domenici (NM) to require Governors to approve water right purchase provisions of the Farm Bill – **Passed by voice vote**
- Bond (MO) to provide ability of the Secretary of Agriculture to review other federal agency actions that could potentially impact farmers – **Defeated (54-43)**
- Johnson (SD) to prohibit meatpacking operations from owning livestock for more than 14 days, -- **Passed (51-46)**
- Wyden (OR)/ Brownback (KS) to provide for forest carbon sequestration and carbon trading by farmer-owned cooperatives. **Passed by voice vote.**

The Senate was unable to pass a Cloture Motion which would have set a time limit on debate of the Farm Bill, with a limit on amendments, and parameters for debate. The vote on cloture failed by a vote of 53 yeas, 45 noes (Cloture motions require 60 votes).

As part of a unanimous consent agreement, all amendments to the Farm Bill were filed by 11:00 am on Friday December 14. As a result, the Senate will not conduct roll call votes on the Farm Bill until Tuesday, December 18, 2001. Amendments under consideration for the balance of Farm Bill debate include the following:

- Wellstone (MN) amendment to restrict participation of large livestock operations in the Environmental Quality Incentives program.
- Crapo (ID) amendments to restrict or remove Water Conservation Program (water rights/easement purchase by USDA) provisions of the bill.
- Burns (MT) amendment to mandate that no more than 50% of a farmers land be re-enrolled in the Conservation Reserve.
- Burns (MT) to establish certain per acre values for land enrolled in the CRP.
- McCain (AZ) amendment to restrict assistance for catfish production.
- Smith (NH) / Toricelli (NJ) amendments regarding terrorism and fugitives in Cuba
- Daschle (SD)/Lugar (IN) amendment to create an Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at USDA.
- Cochran (MS) / Roberts (KS) substitute Farm Bill proposal.

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THIS WEEK:

FARM BILL- The Senate is expected to return to the farm bill on Tuesday, December 18. Several amendments are expected when action resumes on the legislation.

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