LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

February 12, 2001

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LAST WEEK

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE-The Democratic Caucus announced that Anibal Acevedo-Vila (PR), Rick Larson (WA) and Mike Ross (AR) will serve on the House Agriculture Committee.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE- The Senate Appropriations Committee announced its sub-committee members for the 107th Congress.

Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies

Republican	Democrat
Sen. Thad Cochran, MS	Sen. Herb Kohl, WI
Sen. Arlen Specter, PA	Sen. Tom Harkin, IA
Sen. Christopher Bond, MO	Sen. Byron Dorgan, ND
Sen. Mitch McConnell, KY	Sen. Dianne Feinstein, CA
Sen. Conrad Burns, MT	Sen. Richard Durbin, IL
Sen. Larry Craig, ID	Sen. Tim Johnson, SD

LEGISLATION OF NOTE

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

BILL	MEMBER	PURPOSE
H.R. 297	Rahall (WV)	Amends 1977 Surface Mining Act to make changes
		in the Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP) and
		extends Surface Mining Control and Reclamation
		Act to 2011.
H.R. 325	Tanner (TN) and 11	To establish a program to restore fish habitat through
	co-sponsors	local Watershed Councils designated by the state.
		Federal funds could be used as a local non-federal
		cost share for most NRCS programs.

SENATE BRIEFING ON NATURAL GAS PRICING IMPACTS ON NITROGEN-

The Senate Agriculture Committee held a briefing on the impact of rising natural gas prices on the supply and price of nitrogen fertilizer. Keith Collins, USDA Economist, along with gas industry and farm organizations presented an analysis of impacts to agriculture. The group expect some shifts in production from nitrogen dependent commodities like corn to crops such as soybeans. Questions included the value of nutrient management to improve on farm use and the value of farmers switching to alternative crops.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ROSTER-The following pages list the House Committee Roster of assignments for the 107th Congress. Sub-committee assignments have not been completed.

LOOKING AHEAD

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION-Full Committee Meeting. The House Agriculture Committee (Chairman Combest, TX) will meet to organize for the 107th Congress.

February 14 10:00 am 1300 Longworth Bldg.

FEDERAL FARM POLICY REVIEW-Full Committee Hearing. Following the Organization meeting the House Agriculture Committee (Chairman Combest, TX) will hold a hearing to review the current state of the farm economy and the economic impact of federal policy on agriculture. Keith Collins, USDA Chief Economist, is expected to testify.

February 14 Time TBA 1300 Longworth Bldg.

COTTON COMMODITY PROGRAM REVIEW- Full Committee Hearing. The House Agriculture Committee (Chairman Combest, TX) will hold a hearing to review the cotton commodity program. This is the first in a series of hearing the committee will hold to hear from commodity groups.

February 15 9:30 am 1300 Longworth Bldg.