

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**February 26, 2001**

NRCS, 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

PRESIDENT'S DAY RECESS-Both the House and Senate were in recess until Noon, Monday, February 26, 2001.

LEGISLATION OF NOTE

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

BILL	MEMBER	PURPOSE
S. 313	Grassley, IA	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Farm, Fishing and Ranch Risk Management Accounts.
S. 315	Brownback, KS	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat payments under the Conservation Reserve Program as rentals from real estate.
S. 328	Snowe, ME	To reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act.

=====

THIS WEEK

DEREGULATING FARM CREDIT BANKS- The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Lugar, IN) will hold a hearing on a proposal by the Farm Credit Administration that would allow Farm Credit Banks to make loans to farmers anywhere in the United States.

February 26

9:00 am

328-A Russell Building

STATE OF THE UNION- On Tuesday February 27, 2001 the House and Senate will convene in a joint session to receive the State of the Union address by President George W. Bush.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS-The Senate Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing on the oversight and current status of USDA's Conservation Programs. Tom Weber, Deputy Chief for Programs, will testify on one of two agency panels. On March 1, 2001 the Committee will hear from public witnesses. The time and witnesses have not been announced.

February 28 9:00 am 328-A Russell Building

FEDERAL FARM COMMODITY PROGRAMS-The House Agriculture Committee (Chairman Combest, TX) will hold a hearing on federal farm commodity programs. Witnesses will include representatives of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The hearing is scheduled for

February 28 10:00 am 1300 Longworth Building.

=====