

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**July 15, 2002**

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LAST WEEK

FY 2003 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL - On Thursday, July 11, 2002, the full House Appropriations Committee (Chairman Young, FL) held a markup on Agriculture Appropriations for FY 2003.

A summary of reported funding for NRCS is as follows:

	FY 2003 Mark	Change from FY 2002
Conservation Operations.....	\$843,553,000.00	+ \$64,553,000.00
Watershed Surveys and Planning.....	\$ 11,197,000.00	+ \$ 237,000.00
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	\$110,000,000.00	+ \$ 3,410,000.00
Watershed Rehabilitation ¹	\$0	
Resource Conservation and Development..	\$ 55,079,000.00	+ \$ 7,031,000.00
EQIP ²	\$ 695,000,000.00	
WRP ²	245,833 acres	
Conservation Security Program (CSP).....Restricted to the State of Iowa only.		

¹ The Committee noted there is \$45 million in mandatory funding provided through the 2002 Farm Bill.

² EQIP was reduced by \$5 million from the authorized 2002 Farm Bill Level. WRP was reduced by 4,167 acres from the authorized 2002 Farm Bill Level.

Note: WHIP, and FPP were unaffected by the legislation and thus are authorized at limits established in the 2002 Farm Bill.

MISSOURI RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES – On July 10, the Water and Power Subcommittee (Chairman Dorgan, ND) of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on Missouri River water management issues. Representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers (The Corps), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation provided testimony on the management of the river and the proposed changes to the Missouri River Master Plan. Testimony was provided that recognized the challenges to balance the needs of the many communities that exists along the river basin while conserving the endangered and threatened species. The Corps and FWS have entered into an informal Endangered Species Act consultation process and will work to assess available scientific and technical information to explore a range of possibilities regarding operation of the system.

FY 2002 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL BILL – The joint House and Senate conference on Supplemental Appropriations for FY 2002 originally scheduled for Friday, July 12 was cancelled . The Conferees will reschedule the conference for the week of July 15. The Senate legislation contains a provision for \$100 million in Emergency Watershed Protection funding to assist with recovery from natural disasters.

LOOKING AHEAD

FISCAL 2003 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS – During the week of July 22, the Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies (Chairman Kohl, WI) of the Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to mark up legislation that would make fiscal 2003 appropriations for agriculture programs under their jurisdiction.

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