

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**March 19, 2001**

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LAST WEEK

FEDERAL FARM COMMODITY PROGRAMS - The House Agriculture Committee (Chairman Larry Combest, TX) held a full committee hearing on federal farm commodity programs. The witnesses were the National Farmers Union and the National Association of Wheat Growers. The Committee asked the witnesses to provide details on the direction they would like to see farm policy take in the 2002 Farm Bill.

The National Farmers Union (NFU) stated that the primary goal of commodity programs should be to provide economic stability and opportunity for producers over time consistent with a responsible view of market realities, resource sustainable and food security and safety issues. The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) stated that despite the economic difficulties over the last three years, the 1996 Farm Bill continues to serve the nation's farmers and ranchers well. The NAWG made positive comments about conservation programs as well.

Questions included the concern with market signals, agriculture competition abroad, export values and currency exchange rates. The Committee also discussed reserve programs, market support levels and research of alternative uses of wheat. The Committee also posed questions ranging from trade issues, foreign competition, and set aside programs.

LEGISLATION OF NOTE

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

BILL	MEMBER	PURPOSE
H.R. 960	Rep. Kolbe (AZ)	To amend the IRS code to exclude from taxes up to 50% capital gains value of certain land donated for qualified conservation purposes.
H.R.1082	Rep. Peterson (MN)	To amend the Food and Security Act of 1985 to increase the acreage in the CRP.

FINAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 107TH CONGRESS -The complete list of Committee assignments for the 107th Congress are included as an attachment to this Legislative Summary.

THIS WEEK

COMMODITY PROGRAMS-The House Agriculture Committee (Chairman, Combest, TX) will hold hearings on rice and livestock commodity programs.

March 21	10:00 a.m.	1300 Longworth
March 22	9:30 a.m.	1300 Longworth

LOOKING AHEAD

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE-Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee (Chairman Duncan, TN) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing on the nation's water infrastructure needs.

March 28	10:00 a.m.	2167 Rayburn Building
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TRADING ENVIRONMENTAL CREDITS-Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Lugar, IN) will hold a hearing on proposals that would allow farmers to enter the trading market for pollution credits and emission credits. Under the plan, companies in violation of air quality regulations because of excess emission could purchase credits from farmers, who would be paid to grow carbon absorbing plants, such as trees.

March 29	9:00 a.m.	328-A Russell Building
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SENATE AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Republicans	Democrats
Richard G. Lugar, IN, Chairman	Tom Harkin, IA, Ranking Member
Jesse Helms, NC	Patrick Leahy, VT
Thad Cochran, MS	Kent Conrad, ND
Mitch McConnell, KY	Tom Daschle, SD
Pat Roberts, KS	Max Baucus, MT
Peter Fitzgerald, IL	Blanche Lincoln, AR
Craig Thomas, WY	Zell Miller, GA
Wayne Allard, CO	Debbie Stabenow, MI
Tim Hutchinson, AR	Ben Nelson, NE
Michael Crapo, ID	Mark Dayton, MN

**SENATE AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTRY,
CONSERVATION AND RURAL REVITALIZATION**

Republicans	Democrats
Mike Crapo, ID, Chairman	Blanche Lincoln, AR, Rnk. Member
Mitch McConnell, KY	Patrick Leahy, VT
Craig Thomas, WY	Thomas Dashle, ND
Wayne Allard, CO	Debbie Stabenow, MI
Tim Hutchinson, AR	Mark Dayton, MN

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Republicans	Democrats
Ted Stevens, AK, Chairman	Robert Byrd, WV, Ranking Member
Thad Cochran, MS	Daniel Inouye, HI
Arlen Specter, PA	Ernest Hollings, SC
Pete Domenici, NM	Patrick Leahy, VT
Christopher Bond, MO	Tom Harkin, IA
Mitch McConnell, KY	Barbara Mikulski, MD
Conrad Burns, MT	Harry Reid, NV
Richard Shelby, AL	Herb Kohl, WI
Judd Gregg, NH	Patty Murray, WA
Robert Bennett, UT	Byron Dorgan, ND
Ben Nighthorse Campbell, CO	Dianne Feinstein, CA
Larry Craig, ID	Richard Durbin, IL
Kay Bailey Hutchison, TX	Tim Johnson, SD
Mike DeWine, OH	Mary Landrieu, LA

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES**

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Republicans	Democrats
Larry Combest, TX, Chairman	Charles Stenholm, TX, Ranking Member
John Boehner, OH	Gary Condit, CA
Bob Goodlatte, VA	Collin Peterson, MN
Richard Pombo, CA	Calvin Dooley, CA
Nick Smith, MO	Eva Clayton, NC
Terry Everett, AL	Earl Hilliard, AL
Frank Lucas, OK	Tim Holden, PA
Saxby Chambliss, GA	Sanford Bishop, GA
Jerry Moran, KS	Bennie Thompson, MS
Bob Schaffer, CO	Joe Baldacci, ME
John Thune, SD	Marion Berry, AR
William Jenkins, TN	Mike McIntyre, NC
John Cooksey, LA	Bob Ethridge, NC
Gil Gutknecht, MN	Leonard Boswell, IA
Bob Riley, AL	David Phelps, IL
Michael Simpson, ID	Ken Lucas, KY
Doug Ose, CA	Mike Thompson, CA
Robin Hayes, NC	Baron Hill, IN
Ernie Fletcher, KY	Joe Baca, CA
Chip Pickering, MS	Rick Larsen, WA
Timothy Johnson, IL	Mike Ross, AR
Tom Osborne, NE	Aníbal Acevedo-Vilá, PR
Mike Pence, IN	Ron Kind, WI
Dennis Rehberg, MT	Ronnie Shows, MS
Sam Graves, MO	
Adam Putnam, FL	
Mark Kennedy, MN	

**HOUSE AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, CREDIT,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH**

Republicans	Democrats
Frank Lucas, OK Jerry Moran, KS John Thune, SD Doug Ose, CA Tom Osborne, NE Sam Graves, MO Adam Putnam, FL Mark Kennedy, MN	Earl Hilliard, AL John Baldacci, ME David Phelps, IL Mike Thompson, CA Joe Baca, CA Collin Peterson, MN Eva Clayton, NC

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Republicans	Democrats
Bill Young, FL, Chairman	David Obey, Ranking Member
Ralph Regula, OH	John Murtha, PA
Jerry Lewis, CA	Norman Dicks, WA
Harold Rogers, KY	Martin Sabo MN
Joe Skeen, NM	Steny Hoyer, MD
Frank Wolf, VA	Alan Mollohan, WV
Tom DeLay, TX	Marcy Kaptur, OH
Jim Kolbe, AZ	Nancy Pelosi, CA
Sonny Callahan, AL	Peter Visclosky, IN
James Walsh, NY	Nita Lowey, NY
Charles Taylor, NC	José Serrano, NY
David Hobson, OH	Rosa DeLauro, CT
Ernest Istook, OK	James Moran, VA
Henry Bonilla, TX	John Olver, MA
Joe Knollenberg, MI	Ed Pastor, AZ
Dan Miller, FL	Carrie Meek, FL
Jack Kingston, GA	David Price, NC
Rodney Frelinghuysen NJ	Chet Edwards, TX
Roger Wicker, MS	Robert Cramer, AL
George Nethercutt, WA	Patrick Kennedy, RI
Randy Cunningham, CA	James Clyburn, SC
Todd Tiahrt, KS	Maurice Hinchey, NY
Zach Wamp, TN	Lucille Roybal-Allard, CA
Tom Latham, IA	Sam Farr, CA
Anne Northup, KY	Jesse Jackson, IL
Robert Aderholt, AL	Carolyn Kilpatrick, MI
Jo Ann Emerson, MI	Allen Boyd, FL
John Sununu, NH	Chaka Fattah, PA
Kay Granger, TX	Steven Rothman, NJ
John Peterson, PA	
Virgil Goode, VA (Independent)	
John Doolittle, CA	
Ray LaHood, IL	
John Sweeney, NY	
David Vitter, LA	
Don Sherwood, PA	

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
AND RELATED AGENCIES**

Republicans	Democrats
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Henry Bonilla, TX, Chair
James Walsh, NY
Jack Kingston, GA
George Nethercutt, WA
Tom Latham, IA
Jo Ann Emerson, MO
Virgil Goode, VA (Independent)
Ray LaHood, IL

Marcy Kaptur, OH, Ranking Member
Rosa DeLauro, CT
Maurice Hinchey, NY
Sam Farr, CA
Allen Boyd, FL

