

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**March 25, 2002**

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LAST WEEK

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

Bill	Sponsor	Purpose
S. 2040	Roberts, KS	To provide emergency agricultural assistance to producers for the 2002 crop year; referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

FARM BILL STAFF CONFERENCE WORK CONTINUES- The House and Senate Committee staff conference meetings on H.R. 2646, the Farm Bill, continued this week. The committee staff is meeting regarding the various titles. The staff is expecting to work through the weekend and continue to discuss the differences between the House-passed and Senate-passed legislation. The legislation provides \$73.5 billion in mandatory funding over the 10 years for all farm programs, of which \$17.1 billion is allocated to the Conservation Title.

EMERGENCY AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE – On March 21, 2002, Sen. Pat Roberts (KS) and 2 co-sponsors introduced legislation, S. 2040, to provide \$7.35 billion for emergency assistance to farmers in the 2002 crop year. The legislation would provide assistance should conference negotiations fail to produce a Farm Bill this year. The legislation includes \$705 million for USDA Conservation Programs; \$44 million for CRP technical assistance, \$300 million for EQIP, \$200 million for WRP, and \$161 million for FPP.

THIS WEEK

SPRING RECESS - The House and Senate will be on recess until April 9, 2002.

PESTICIDES AND FOOD QUALITY FIELD HEARING - The Health Subcommittee (Chairman Bilirakis, FL) of the House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold an oversight hearings on the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (PL 104-170). The hearing will be held at the Wood County Commissioner's Hearing Room, Fifth Floor Wood County Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, Ohio.

March 25	10:00 a.m.	Bowling Green, Ohio
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LOOKING AHEAD

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT HEARING - The Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee (Chairman Duncan, TN) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing on proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2002.

April 10	10:00 a.m.	2167 Rayburn
April 17	2:00 p.m.	2167 Rayburn

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