LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

March 4, 2002

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

LEGISLATION OF NOTE

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

BILL	MEMBER	PURPOSE
H. R. 3827	Moran, KS	A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture
		Reorganization Act of 1994 relating to the National
		Appeals Division to ensure that agricultural
		producers and other persons appealing adverse
		agency decisions of the Department of Agriculture
		receive fair and equitable treatment.

HOUSE NAMES FARM BILL CONFEREES- House Agriculture, Committee Chairman Larry Combest (TX), named conferees for the House-Senate conference on H.R. 2646, known as the Farm Bill, this week. Named were Representatives Larry Combest, (TX), John Boehner (OH), Robert Goodlatte (VA), Richard Pombo (CA), Terry Everett (WA), Frank Lucas (OK), Saxby Chambliss(GA), Jerry Moran (KS), Charles Stenholm (TX), Gary Condit (CA), Collin Peterson (MN), Cal Dooley (CA), Eva Clayton (NC) and Tim Holden (PA). The conference will take place at the completion of the staff conference.

SENATE NAMES FARM BILL CONFEREES - The Senate Agriculture Committee, Chairman Harkin (IA) named conferees for the House-Senate conference on H. R. 2646, the Farm Bill. Named were Senators Tom Harkin (IA), Tom Daschle (SD), Patrick Leahy (VT), Kent Conrad (ND), Richard Lugar (IN), Thad Cochran (MS), Jesse Helms, (NC). The conference will take place at the end of the staff conference.

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 met regarding the Forestry, Trade, and work has begun on Conservation titles. The staff is expecting to work through the weekend and next week to discuss the differences between the House-passed and Senate-passed legislation.

FARM BILL INFORMATION - We have updated the legislative affairs web site. Log on to www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/LA/LAhome.html and you will see under Legislative Documents three documents, 2002 Farm Bill Side by Side, 2002 Farm Bill House version and 2002 Farm Bill Senate version.

THIS WEEK

March 6

AGRICULTURE NOMINATIONS CONFIRMATION HEARING - Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Harkin, IA) will hold a confirmation hearing on pending nominations. Nominations are Thomas Dorr to be undersecretary of USDA for Rural Development, Nancy Bryson to be general counsel for USDA, Grace Daniel to serve on the board of the Federal Agriculture Mortgage Corporation, Fred Dailey to serve on the board of the Federal Agriculture Mortgage Corporation. This hearing was previously scheduled for February 13 and February 28.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI SEDIMENT; WALLOWA LAKE DAM SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING - The Water and Power Subcommittee (Chairman Calvert, CA) of the House Resources Committee will hold a hearing on pending legislation. Agenda: H.R. 3480 and H.R. 3606.

9:30 a.m.

March 710:00 a.m.1334 LongworthKLAMATH RIVER HEARING - The House Resources Committee (Chairman
Hansen, UT) will hold a hearing on a National Academy of Science interim report on

endangered and threatened fishes in the Klamath River Basin.

March 7 2:00 p.m. 1334 Longworth

LOOKING AHEAD

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS HEARING - The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies (Chairman Kohl, WI) has tentatively scheduled an appropriations hearing regarding the FY 2003 Budget Request as it relates to assistance for farmers.

March 14 10:00 a.m. Location TBA

106 Dirksen