

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:

FARM BILL FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP – On October 31, 2001, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Harkin, IA) began to mark up provisions of an omnibus farm bill that would reauthorize and restructure a broad range of farm assistance programs. The committee approved the credit title provisions, which will assist beginning farmers and ranchers gain greater access to federal farm lending programs of the new federal farm bill. The committee is expected to continue other titles of the farm bill next week.

On Thursday, Sen. Harkin announced his version of the farm bill. Some of the conservation provisions include:

- A new Conservation Security Program to provide incentive payments to all farmers for maintaining and adopting conservation practices on working lands
- WRP increases acreage up to 250,000 annually through 2006
- EQIP increase funding over 4 years to \$950 million annually
- RC&D- permanently authorize program
- WHIP- increase funding from \$50 million up to \$100 million annually over 4 years
- FPP- renamed as Agricultural Land Protection Program and funding increased from \$175 million to \$250 million over 4 years
- Grassland Reserve Program - a new program to enroll up to 1 million acres
- Floodrisk Reduction – up to \$15 million annually for flood plain easements
- Forestry FIP - reauthorize through 2006
- Sustainable Forest Management Program – a new program for financial assistance to non-industrial forest landowners

SENATE AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE ROSTERS

The committee also announced a revision of subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Production and Price Competitiveness: Senators Conrad (Chairman), Daschle, Baucus, Lincoln, Miller, Dayton, Roberts (Ranking Member), Helms, Cochran, Fitzgerald, and McConnell.

Subcommittee on Marketing, Inspection, and Product Promotion: Senators Baucus (Chairman), Leahy, Conrad, Lincoln, Nelson, Wellstone, Fitzgerald (Ranking Member), Helms, Cochran, Roberts, and Thomas.

Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization: Senators Lincoln (Chairman), Leahy, Daschle, Baucus, Stabenow, Dayton, Crapo (Ranking Member), McConnell, Thomas, Allard, and Hutchinson.

Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation: Senators Leahy (Chairman), Conrad, Miller, Stabenow, Ben Nelson, Wellstone, McConnell (Ranking Member), Allard, Hutchinson, Crapo, and Helms.

The Secretary announced that she “was pleased that Chairman Harkin and Senator Lugar are proceeding with farm policy discussions in a thoughtful, deliberate process within the Senate Agriculture Committee.”

CONTINUING RESOLUTION - On October 31, the President signed H. J. Res. 70 the fourth continuing resolution that will keep the government in full operation through November 16, 2001.

CALFED PROJECT - The House adopted and the Senate approved a \$24.6 billion conference report funding energy and water programs. The conference report includes \$30 million for the California Federal Bay Delta (CALFED) project.

DAVID P. TENNY NAMED AS DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT - Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the selection of David P. Tenny as Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. In this position, Mr. Tenny has responsibility for policy relating to the programs of USDA’s Forest Service.

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THIS WEEK:

CALFED REAUTHORIZATION, OREGON'S KLAMATH BASIN - The House Resources Committee (Chairman Hansen, UT) will mark up pending legislation. They are expected to take up a measure (H.R.1985) on November 7 to reauthorize the federal-state water project. The administration requested \$20 million for CALFED. The Senate bill provided \$40 million; the House provided no funding.

FY 2002 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE - The House and Senate conferees are expected to meet to consider fiscal 2002 appropriations for the Agriculture Department, the Food and Drug Administration and related programs. The time and location of the conference is to be announced.

FARM BILL FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP - Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Harkin, IA) will mark up provisions of an omnibus farm bill that would reauthorize and restructure a broad range of farm assistance programs.

November 6

Time TBA

328A Russell Bldg.

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