

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

October 21, 2002

NRCS, Office of Legislative Affairs
Room 5121, South Agriculture Bldg.
(202) 720-2771

www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/legislative

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	Sponsor	Purpose
S. 3035	Clinton, NY	To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for protection and enhancement of the environment of the Finger Lakes Region in the State of New York.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION PASSED ON APPROPRIATIONS – On October 16, the House passed and the Senate cleared, the fourth FY 2003 continuing resolution, H.J. Res.123, to continue funding the federal government until November 22, 2002. The President signed the legislation into law on Friday, October 18.

CONGRESSIONAL RECESS – The House and Senate are in recess until after the November 5 election. It is possible that Congress will return on the week of November 12 finalizing appropriations bills for FY 2003.

THIS WEEK

FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFING – On Thursday, October 17, 2002, NRCS Chief, Bruce Knight along with Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services, Hunt Shipman provided a briefing for staff of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, regarding current status of Farm Bill implementation. Chief Knight provided an overview of the rule-making for Conservation Title Programs. Questions from the Committee included timing of new rules, status of Technical Service Provider provisions, timing of new apportionments, and also technical assistance funding mechanics.

LOOKING AHEAD

FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM - On October 29, Rep. Felix Grucci (NY) and farmers from Long Island, NY will meet with Under Secretary Mark Rey and NRCS Chief, Bruce Knight, regarding implementation of the Farmland Protection Program in New York and funding allocations for the state.
