

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

December 24, 2001

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LAST WEEK:

SENATE TO CONTINUE FARM BILL WORK IN 2002 – Following more than three weeks of debate, the Senate set the Farm Bill aside for further action until next year. A compilation of amendments and action taken by the Senate follows:

December 6, 2001

The Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1731.

December 7, 2001

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for consideration of S. 1731.

December 10, 2001

The Senate began consideration of S. 1731.

December 11, 2001

The Senate continued work on S.1731 and considered the following amendments:

- Crapo (ID) to remove minimum Dairy price supports – **Defeated (57-47)**

December 12, 2001

- Domenici (NM) Modified Amendment No. 2502 (to amendment No. 2471) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to obtain written consent from each State's Governor prior to implementation of the water conservation program. **Adopted by voice vote.**
- Gregg (NH)/Lugar (IN) Amendment No. 2466 to phase out the sugar program and use any resulting savings to improve nutrition assistance. **Defeated (71-29)**

- Daschle (ND)/Lugar (IN) Amendment No. 2511, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish within the Department of Agriculture the position of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights. **Withdrawn**

December 13, 2001

- Feingold (CA) /Grassley (IA)/ Harkin (IN) Amendment No. 2522 to reform certain mandatory arbitration clauses. **Adopted (64-31)**
- Wyden (OR) / Brownback (KA) Amendment No. 2546 to provide for forest carbon sequestration and carbon trading by farmer-owned cooperatives. **Adopted by voice vote.**
- Bond (MO) to provide ability of the Secretary of Agriculture to review other federal agency actions which could negatively impact farmers. **Defeated (54-43)**
- Johnson (SD) to prohibit meatpacking operations from owning livestock for more than 14 days. **Passed (51-46)**
- McCain (AZ) Amendment No. 2598 to provide labeling restrictions for catfish. **Withdrawn**

December 14, 2001

- Wellstone (WI) amendment to insert in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program provisions relating to confined livestock feeding operations and to a payment limitation. **No action to date.**
- Burns (MT) Amendment No. 2607 to establish a per-farm limitation on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. **No action to date.**
- Burns (MT) Amendment No 2608 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish certain per-acre values for payments for different categories of land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. **No action to date.**

December 18, 2001

- Lugar (IN) Amendment No. 2603 to remove labeling restrictions for catfish. **Defeated (86-27)**
- Cochran (MS) / Roberts (KS) substitute Farm Bill proposal. **Defeated (55-40)**

- Smith (NH) Amendment No. 2596 to provide for Presidential certification that the government of Cuba is not involved in the support for acts of international terrorism as a condition precedent to agricultural trade with Cuba. **Defeated (61-33)**

December 19, 2001

- Hutchinson (AR) Amendment to insert text of House-passed Farm Bill version. **Defeated (59-38)**

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

Bill	Member	Purpose
H. R. 3480	Kind, WI	To promote the Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.
S.1768	Feinstein, CA	To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to implement the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.
S. 1815	Lincoln, AR	To amend the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a pilot program under which the Secretary shall make grants to local units of government or local nonprofit organizations in the State of Arkansas to employ non-Federal resource conservation and development coordinators.
S. 1825	Boxer, CA	To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to provide financial assistance to the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho and tribes in the region for salmon habitat restoration projects in coastal waters and upland drainages.

CONGRESS ADJOURNS-The House and Senate are adjourned until January 23, 2002 at noon.

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