

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**February 11, 2002**

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LAST WEEK

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

Bill	Member	Purpose
H. R. 3577	Gilchrest, MD	To reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.

THE SENATE RESUMES CONSIDERATION OF S. 1731 - On Wednesday, February 6, 2002 the Senate resumed consideration of S. 1731. A summary of activity is listed below. The Senate will continue considering amendments next week.

February 6, 2002

- Harkin Modified Amendment No. 2604 to apply the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to livestock production contracts and to provide parties to the contract the right to discuss the contract with certain individuals. **(Passed 82-14)**
- Wellstone Modified Amendment No. 2602 to insert in the environmental quality incentives program provisions relating to confined livestock feeding operations and to a payment limitation. Would prohibit funding for CAFO's and operations located in a 100-year flood plain. **(Defeated 52 - 44)**
- Burns Modified Amendment No. 2607 to establish a per-farm limitation on land enrolled in the conservation reserve program. Would allow a farmer to re-enroll only 50 percent of their acreage in the conservation reserve program. **(Withdrawn)**
- Burns Modified 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. **(Withdrawn)**

WATER AND CONSERVATION AGENCY BUDGETS SUBCOMMITTEE

HEARING - The Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee (Chairman Duncan, TN) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing on agency budgets and priorities for fiscal year 2003. Thomas Weber, NRCS Deputy Chief for Programs, will be a witness.

February 14

10:00 a.m.

2167 Rayburn

CALFED RECORD OF DECISIONS OVERSIGHT HEARING - The Water and Power Subcommittee (Chairman Calvert, CA) of the House Resources Committee will hold an oversight hearing on operations of the Central Valley Project and CALFED's record of decisions, CALFED is a state and federally coordinated program to provide a long-term plan to restore ecological health and improve water management in the Bay-Delta system in California. Anticipated water deliveries for 2002 will also be discussed

February 14

10:00 a.m.

1334 Longworth

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND CRITICAL HABITATS FIELD HEARING-

The House Resources Committee (Chairman Hansen, UT) will hold a field hearing on the Endangered Species Act's Platte River Cooperative Agreement and critical habitats concerning certain fish and birds in Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska. The hearing will be held at the Hornday-Marshall Auditorium, College Park, 3180 West Highway 34, Grand Island, Nebraska.

February 16

1:00 p.m.

Grand Island, NE

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LOOKING AHEAD

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS HEARING - The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration (Chairman Bonilla, TX) has tentatively scheduled a hearing regarding the FY 2003 Budget Request for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

February 27

9:30 a.m.

2362 Rayburn

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

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