

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**February 18, 2002**

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LAST WEEK

THE SENATE PASSES FARM BILL - On Wednesday, February 13, 2002 the Senate passed S. 1731, the "Agriculture, Conservation, and Rural Enhancement Act of 2002". The vote was 58-40. A summary of activity is listed below. More detailed documents will be provided as they are forthcoming. The Senate must now hold a conference with the House to resolve differences between S.1731 and H.R. 2646, the House passed version of the farm bill.

February 12, 2002

- Grassley Amendment No. 2837 (to Amendment No. 2835), to make it unlawful for a packer to own, feed, or control livestock intended for slaughter. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Craig Amendment No. 2835 to provide for a study of a proposal to prohibit certain packers from owning, feeding, or controlling livestock. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Reid Further Modified Amendment No. 2842 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Crapo/Craig Amendment No. 2533), to promote water conservation on agricultural land. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Baucus Amendment No. 2839 to provide emergency agriculture assistance. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Enzi Amendment No. 2843 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide livestock feed assistance to producers affected by disasters. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Enzi Amendment No. 2846 to authorize the President to establish a pilot emergency relief program under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 to provide live lamb to Afghanistan. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Wellstone Amendment No. 2847 to insert in the environmental quality incentives program provisions relating to confined livestock feeding operations and insert a payment limitation. **(Passed voice vote)**

- Helms Amendment No. 2822 to exclude birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus* from the definition of animal under the Animal Welfare Act. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Feinstein Modified Amendment No. 2829 to make up for any shortfall in the amount sugar supplying countries are allowed to export to the United States each year. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Lugar (for McConnell) Amendment No. 2854 to conserve global bear populations by prohibiting the importation, exportation, and interstate trade of bear viscera and items, products, or substances containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, bear viscera. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Lugar (for Kyl) Modified Amendment No. 2855 to insert provisions relating to the implementation of water conservation programs. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Santorum Further Modified Amendment No. 2542 to improve the standards for the care and treatment of certain animal. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Lugar (for Gramm) Modified Amendment No. 2849 to provide equity and fairness for the promotion of imported Hass avocados. **(Passed voice vote)**
- McConnell Amendment No. 2845 to reduce certain commodity benefits and use the resulting savings to improve nutrition assistance. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Miller Further Modified Amendment No. 2832 to increase the rate for compensation of peanut quota holders. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Harkin Amendment No. 2853 to modify the limits on the types of communities in which Rural Business Investment Companies may invest. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Leahy Modified Amendment No. 2834 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to issue an order that provides for a program of generic promotion, research, and information regarding organic products. **(Passed voice vote)**
- Crapo/Craig Amendment No. 2533 to strike the water conservation program. **(Defeated 55-45)**
- Harkin Amendment No. 2856 (to Amendment No. 2845), of a perfecting nature. **(Defeated 80-17)**
- Gramm Amendment No. 2848 to repeal the Hass Avocado Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 2000. **(Withdrawn)**

- Inhofe Amendment No. 2825 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments for each of the 2003 through 2007 crops of peanuts. **(Withdrawn)**

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- Conrad Amendment No. 2857 to express the Sense of the Senate that no Social Security surplus funds should be used to pay to make currently scheduled tax cuts permanent or for wasteful spending. **(Passed 98-0)**
- Kyl/Nickles Amendment No. 2850 to express the Sense of the Senate that the repeal of the estate tax should be made permanent by eliminating the sunset provision's applicability to the estate tax. **(Passed 56-42)**
- Kerry/Snowe Amendment No. 2852 to provide emergency disaster assistance for the commercial fishery failure with respect to Northeast multispecies fisheries. **(Passed by voice vote)**
- Harkin/Lugar Amendment No. 2859 (Manager's amendment) to make certain improvements to Farm Aid. **(Passed by voice vote)**
- Domenici Modified Amendment No. 2851 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make payments to milk producers. **(Defeated 56 - 42)**

WATER AND CONSERVATION AGENCY BUDGETS SUBCOMMITTEE

HEARING – On February 14, the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee (Chairman Duncan, TN) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing on agency budgets and priorities for fiscal year 2003. Thomas Weber, NRCS Deputy Chief for Programs, was a witness. Several members raised concerns regarding the Small Watershed Protection Program budget request. Chairman Duncan asked what was the rationale for eliminating all funding except the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Rep. Baird asked about the accumulated annual benefits of the Small Watershed Protection Program. Other witnesses included officials from TVA, NOAA, and EPA.

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

AGRICULTURE NOMINATIONS CONFIRMATION HEARING- Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Harkin, IA) will hold a confirmation hearing on pending nominations. Witnesses scheduled are Thomas Dorr to be under secretary of agriculture for rural development and Nancy Bryson to be general counsel for USDA. (Note: this is rescheduled)

February 28

9:30 a.m.

216 Hart

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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