

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**May 21, 2001**

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LAST WEEK

ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS HEARING - On May 16, 2001 the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (Chairman Duncan, TN) held a hearing on management options for confined animal feeding operations.

The witnesses were primarily farmers and state government officials. The concern of the Subcommittee rests with EPA rules issued in December dealing with agricultural animal waste. Several members of the Subcommittee expressed concern that the rule would drive small and medium animal feeding operations out of business and that the rule was too general. In addition, witnesses stated that farmers should have one consistent set of criteria that are recognized by all relevant federal agencies, including the Department of Agriculture. Another concern is that animal feeding operations vary region by region. Some believe that regulations of these operations should be handled on a local level.

DROUGHT BRIEFING – A briefing was held for staff of Sen. Patty Murray (WA) concerning USDA farm programs that could benefit farmers during periods of draught. Both NRCS and FSA staff discussed USDA programs that could address drought-related needs. Bruce Julian and Victor Cole from the Watershed and Wetlands Division and Melvin Womack, Conservation Incentives Team Leader, discussed Conservation Compliance, Emergency Watershed Protection and Conservation Planning related to special needs during a drought.

WILLIAM SHUSTER SWORN IN AS PENNSYLVANIA CONGRESSMAN-

William Shuster, son of former Congressman Bud Shuster, was sworn in on Tuesday to represent the 9th District of Pennsylvania. Shuster, a businessman, was elected in a special election to fill the seat left vacated by his father who held it from 1973 until his resignation in January 2001.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION HEARING – The Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee held a hearing on carbon sequestration. John Kimble, NRCS Research Soil Scientist, will be testifying regarding carbon sequestration processes and methods.

May 23

2:00 p.m.

Location TBA

LOOKING AHEAD

FEDERAL FARM POLICY- The General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee (Chairman Chambliss, GA) of the House Agriculture Committee will hold a field hearing on federal farm policy.

June 23

9:00 a.m.

Macon, GA
