

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**October 28, 2002**

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LAST WEEK**LEGISLATION OF NOTE**

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

Bill	Sponsor	Purpose
S. 3115	Graham, FL	To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange certain land in the State of Florida.
H. R. 5617	Gibbons, NV	To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the silver-based biocides as an alternative treatment to preserve wood.
H. R. 5627	Obey, WI	To establish a counter-cyclical income support program for dairy producers.
H. R. 5698	Thompson, CA	To establish water conservation and habitat restoration programs in the Klamath River basin and to provide emergency disaster assistance to fisherman, Indian tribes, small businesses, and others that suffered economic harm from the devastating effects of the Klamath River basin fish kill of 2002.

SEN. WELLSTONE DIES – Sen. Paul Wellstone, MN, died on Friday, October 25, 2002 in a small plane accident that also took the lives of his wife, daughter, three staff members and the pilots. Sen. Wellstone was a member of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry committee and had represented Minnesota for two terms.

FY 2003 EARMARKS - Wednesday, October 23, 2002 Doug McKalip, NRCS Director, Legislative Affairs Staff and Brenda Thomas, NRCS Director, Budget Planning and Analysis Division, met with Galen Fountain, Clerk, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies to discuss 2003 earmarks, including

total funding in NRCS accounts and the significant increases in earmarks for the coming fiscal year.

BRUSH CONTROL IN TEXAS - Monday, October 21, 2002, Mack Gray, Deputy Under Secretary, Conservation; Merlin Bartz, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary; Mark Berkland, Director, Conservation Operations Division; and Doug McKalip, Director, Legislative Affairs Staff met with Anne Simmons, Professional Staff, House Committee on Agriculture; Steve Haterius, Minority Staff Director; and other members of the House Agriculture Committee Staff to discuss brush control in Texas. The committee staff was interested in opportunities to fund brush control in the state. They were also provided an update on farm bill implementation and ways that the EQIP program could be used to meet the needs of Texas farmers and ranchers.

THIS WEEK

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.
