

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**April 15, 2002**

NRCS, Office of Legislative Affairs
Room 5121, South Agriculture Bldg.
(202) 720-2771

For additional information contact:

Douglas J. McKalip
Eric W. Carlson
Sharyn C. Alvarez

LAST WEEK

HOUSE PASSES UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN PROTECTION ACT – On April 9, 2002, the House passed H.R. 3480, the Upper Mississippi River Protection Act of 2002. The legislation authorizes a program to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin through the Department of Interior.

FARM BILL CONFERENCE WORK CONTINUES - The House and Senate Committee staff conference meetings on H.R. 2646, the Farm Bill, continued this week. The conference met several days regarding the various titles, but as yet has not discussed the Conservation title. The members outlined the differences and offered some amendments regarding changes in the Nutrition, and Miscellaneous titles. The staff is expecting to work through the weekend and continue to resolve the differences between the House-passed and Senate-passed legislation. The Members will resume continue their meeting early next week.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING BILL DEVELOPMENT - House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (IL) announced this week that the House would try to enact the Administration's request for \$27.1 billion in supplemental FY 2002 spending within two weeks. Both Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Sen. Robert Byrd (WV) and House Appropriations Committee Chair William Young (FL) indicated they will hold hearings within the next two weeks regarding programs impacted by the supplemental legislation. The legislation could be used as a vehicle for additional agricultural funding as a stopgap for farmers awaiting completion of the Farm Bill.

THIS WEEK

CLIMATE RESEARCH FULL COMMITTEE HEARING – The House Science Committee (Chairman Boehlert, NY) will hold a hearing on new directions in climate research.

April 17 10:00 a.m. 2318 Rayburn Building

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT HEARING - The Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee (Chairman Duncan, TN) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing on proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2002.

April 17 2:00 p.m. 2167 Rayburn Building

=====