

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**April 26, 1999**

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LAST WEEK -

HOUSE CONFEREES NAMED - On Thursday, April 22, the House Conferees for H.R. 1141, The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for FY1999 were named. A Conference Committee will likely convene in two weeks or possibly the end of next week. A list of the House Conferees follows:

Nancy Pelosi (CA)
 Jose Serrano (NY)
 Ed Pastor (AZ)
 Bill Young (FL)
 Ralph Regula (OH)
 Jerry Lewis (CA)
 John Edward Porter (IL)
 Harold Rogers (KY)
 Joe Skeen (NM)
 Frank Wolf (VA)
 Jim Kolbe (AZ)
 Ron Packard (CA)
 Sonny Callahan (AL)
 James Walsh (NY)
 Charles Taylor (NC)
 David Hobson (OH)
 David Obey (WI)
 John Murtha (PA)
 Norman Dicks (WA)
 Martin Sabo (MN)
 Steny Hoyer (MD)
 Alan Mollohan (WV)
 Marcy Kaptur (OH)

SENATE HOLDS HEARING ON THE FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE

PROGRAM - On Wednesday, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Richard Lugar, R-IN) held a hearing to review the recently released report on the Federal Crop Insurance Program prepared by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture. Testimony was given by Kenneth Ackerman, Administrator,

Risk Management Agency, and Roger Viadero, Inspector General, OIG, concerning the release of a report by OIG that was critical of RMA's administering of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. The Senators will submit written questions to both parties for clarification and will have further discussion concerning the report.

HOUSE HOLDS HEARING ON THE FOOD QUALITY PROTECTION ACT

Thursday, April 22, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Forestry (Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-VA) held a hearing on the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act. Testimony was given by three groups of panelist, including Rep. Richard Hastings, R-WA, with concerns on how the implementation of the Act will affect agriculture. The hearing was delayed due to a vote on the floor and will be continued next week.

NRCS QUARTERLY LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP - On Thursday, April 22, NRCS Legislative Affairs Staff hosted the second Quarterly Legislative Workshop for Deputy Chiefs, Division Directors and Program Managers of NRCS. The topic was "Preparing for Farm Bill 2002". The workshop was held in room 107-A Whitten Bldg. Guest speakers included Glenda Humiston, Deputy Under-Secretary, USDA, who gave the opening statement and Greg Frazier, Chief of Staff, USDA, gave the Department's perspective. Guests from the Senate Agriculture Committee were Bob White, Senior Professional Staff Member and Andy Fish, Minority Professional Staff Member. Mr. White felt that water quality and AFO Strategy would be upcoming issues of the 2002 Farm Bill and urged NRCS to do more communicating and educating the public of its role. Mr. Fish emphasized the need to work on current conservation programs and for NRCS to communicate to the public the benefits of the programs.

Guests from the House Agriculture Committee, were Russell Laird, Professional Staff Member and Anne Simmons, Professional Staff Member. Mr. Laird commended NRCS for holding Watershed briefings for House and Senate staffers and also felt the AFO/CAFO strategy would be an issue for the 2002 Farm Bill. Ms. Simmons felt watershed and conservation would be issues to watch out for and suggested Land and Water Conservation Fund and mineral extraction fees as sources for additional funding for the Department.

LEGISLATION OF NOTE -

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

BILL	MEMBER	PURPOSE
H.R. 1480	Shuster, (PA)	Would provide for conservation and development of water and related resources and authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States.

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK RESTORATION PROJECT Joint Hearing - National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee (Chairman James Hansen, R-UT) of House Resources Committee will hold a hearing on issues regarding Everglades National Park and surrounding areas impacted by management of the Everglades.

FORESTS AND WILDERNESS SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP - Forests and Forest Health Subcommittee (Chairman Helen Chenoweth, R-ID) of House Resources Committee will mark up pending legislation.

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LOOKING AHEAD -

CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT - Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Frank Murkowski, R-AK) will hold a hearing on pending legislation.

May 4

9:30 am

366 Dirksen Bldg.