

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR: May 1, 2000

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LAST WEEK:

EASTER RECESS – The House will be in recess until May 2. The Senate returned from recess on April 25.

LEGISLATION OF NOTE

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

BILL	MEMBER	PURPOSE
S. 2410	Murkowski, (AK)	To increase the authorization of appropriations for the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978, and for other purposes.
S. 2417	Crapo, (ID)	To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to increase funding for State nonpoint source pollution control programs, and for other purposes.
S. 2422	Conrad, (KS)	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for farm relief and economic development, and for other purposes.
S. 2437	Smith, (NH)	To provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for the improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.”(WRDA 2000)
S. 2441	Bond, (MO)	To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a program for fisheries habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement, and for

		other purposes. (Fishable Waters Act)
H.R. 4226	Thune, (SD)	To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Black Hills National Forest and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire replacement sites and to acquire or construct administrative improvements in connection with the Black Hills National Forest.
H.R. 4260	Nussle, (IA)	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from net earnings from self-employment certain farm rental income and all payments under the environmental conservation acreage reserve program.
H.R. 4278	Tanner, (TN)	To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a program for fisheries habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement, and for other purposes. (Fishable Waters Act)
H.R. 4299	Deal, (GA)	To require Federal agencies responsible for managing Federal lake projects to pursue strategies for enhancing recreational experiences of the public at such lakes, and for other purposes.
H.R. 4314	Kanjorski, (PA)	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax to holders of bonds issued to finance land and water reclamation for the anthracite region of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.
H.R. 4339	Thune, SD	To prohibit excessive concentration resulting from mergers among certain purchasers, processors, and sellers of livestock, poultry, and basic agricultural commodities; to require the Attorney General to establish an Office of Special Counsel for Agriculture, and for other purposes.

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THIS WEEK:

CARBON AND CLIMATE CHANGE HEARING – The Production and Price Competitive Subcommittee (Chairman Roberts, R-KS) of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee will hold a hearing concerning carbon cycle research and the role of agriculture in climate change. Scheduled to testify on behalf of the USDA are Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger and NRCS Research Soil Scientist John M. Kimble.

May 4 2:00pm 328-A Russell Senate Building

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUPS – The Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Skeen, R-N.M.) of the House Appropriations Committee will mark up legislation that would make FY 2001 appropriations for programs under its jurisdiction. This is scheduled to take place at 10:00 on May 4th in room 2362A of the Rayburn House Office Building. It is possible that the Senate will take similar action this week. House leaders have indicated a desire to have an Agriculture Appropriations bill ready for floor consideration by the week of May 15.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – The Oversight of Governmental Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee (Chairman Voinovich, R-OH) of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on the effectiveness of Federal Employee Incentive Programs. This hearing is scheduled to take place at 10:00 on May 2nd in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. This subcommittee will hold an additional hearing on the success of efforts to “reinvent” government by improving efficiency and restructuring operations. This Hearing will take place at 10:00 on May 4th in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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LOOKING AHEAD:

TMDL – The Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee (Chairman Goodlatte, R-VA) of the house Agriculture Committee will hold a field hearing on the impact of the proposed total maximum daily load regulations on agriculture. The regulations would set maximum daily limits on the amount of certain chemicals that could be discharged into waterways. This field hearing is scheduled to take place at 9:00 a.m. in the Wingate University Fine Arts Center, Wingate, N.C. on May 22nd.

FARM POLICY FIELD HEARINGS – House Agriculture Committee Chairman, Larry Combest (R-TX) and Ranking Member Charlie Stenholm (D-TX) have announced the schedule of farm policy hearings in 10 cities in regions from March through May, encouraging producers to submit detailed proposals for agriculture policy. Although each hearing may last for up to four hours, full discussion of producers' plans and Committee Members' questions will limit the number of witnesses who can testify at the hearings. Producers may be invited to offer testimony as a witness, or if not selected, producers may either submit specific views for the record, or e-mail informal comments to the Committee. To be considered as a potential witness at the hearing, producers should include information about their agricultural experience and their farming operations. The Committee will select witnesses who are qualified to provide specific testimony about federal farm policy, and answer questions posed by Agriculture Committee Members about policy alternatives.

The schedule for the Farm Policy Field Hearings are as follows:

Monday, May 1 Sacramento, California Heidrick Ag History Center (Woodland, California) 8:30 a.m. Central Time 8:30 a.m. Pacific Time	Tuesday, May 2 Sioux Falls, South Dakota Augustana College 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time	Friday, May 12 Boise, Idaho City Council Building
Saturday, May 13 Peoria, Illinois Peoria Civic Center 8:30 a.m. Central Time		
