

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**

**February 9, 1998**

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**LAST WEEK:**

**PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED FY99 FEDERAL BUDGET** - The President's budget proposal was delivered to Congress on Monday, February 2, beginning the formal budget process for FY99. Major items included in the budget request for NRCS: for CONSERVATION OPERATIONS a total of \$742.2 million, including the America's Private Land Conservation (formerly Conservation Technical Assistance) at \$579.1 million, Soil Surveys at \$78.3 million, Plant Material Centers at \$7.8 million, and Water Resources Assistance (technical assistance for Watershed Surveys and Planning and Watershed and Flood Protection) at \$71 million. The WATERSHED SURVEYS & PLANNING at \$0 (Note: funding for this activity was included in the Conservation Operations request); WATERSHED & FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS at \$49 million; FOREST INCENTIVES PROGRAM at \$0; RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT at \$34.4 million, for a total NRCS appropriations of \$825.6 million.

The following funding levels for programs financed through the Commodity Credit Corporation include: the WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM at \$127.7 million which enables the enrollment of 164 thousand acres in 1999; WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (WHIP) at \$20 million; ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP) at \$300 million; CONSERVATION FARM OPTION (CFO) at \$25 million, FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM (FPP) at \$0.

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**THIS WEEK:**

**SENATE FY99 APPROPRIATIONS** - The Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Thad Cochran, R-MS) of the Senate Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on appropriations for FY99.

Feb. 10            10:00 a.m.      138 Dirksen Bldg.  
Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman

**ESA REAUTHORIZATION** - The House Resources Committee (Chairman Young, R-Alaska) will hold a hearing on the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act.

Feb. 11            11:00 a.m.      1324 Longworth Bldg.

**HOUSE FY99 APPROPRIATIONS** - The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Joe Skeen, R-NM) of the House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on appropriations for FY99.

Feb. 12            10:30 a.m.      2362-A Rayburn Bldg.  
Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman

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**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**SENATE FY99 APPROPRIATIONS** - The Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Thad Cochran, R-MS) of the Senate Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on appropriations for FY99.

Feb. 26            10:00 a.m.      128 Dirksen Bldg.  
Under Secretary for NRE, James R. Lyons and  
NRCS Chief

**HOUSE FY99 APPROPRIATIONS** - The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Joe Skeen, R-NM) of the House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on appropriations for FY99.

March 17          1:00 p.m.        2362-A Rayburn Bldg.  
Under Secretary for NRE, James R. Lyons and  
NRCS Chief

**EQIP HEARING** - The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Forestry, Resource Conservation, and Research (Chairman Larry Combest R-TX) has tentatively scheduled an oversight hearing on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

March 5            9:30 a.m.        1300 Longworth

**HEARING ON GLOBAL WARMING TREATY - RESCHEDULED** - The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Richard Lugar, R-IN) has scheduled a hearing on the Kyoto Global Warming Pact that would require a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases that are believed to cause global warming.

March 5            TBA                328-A Russell Bldg.

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