

HOUSE DRAFTS FARM BILL CONCEPT

The House Agriculture Committee has released the proposed concepts to be included in the 2002 Farm Bill. The committee's initial draft contains provisions for all \$73.5 billion available for mandatory spending over the next 10 years. Any attempts to add new money, programs, or initiatives to the current draft will have to be offset by removing something. The draft concepts can be viewed at <http://www.agriculture.house.gov/farmbill.htm> and are excerpted below:

Program Crops - including wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, and minor oilseeds (\$48.886 billion of the total).

- C Maintains planting flexibility.
- C Guarantees counter-cyclical income that increases payments to producers when prices fall without requiring new legislation.
- C Makes oilseeds full partners in commodity programs for major field crops.
- C Allows producers a choice to maintain current contract payment acres or update payment acres for recent plantings.
- C Makes counter-cyclical payments on fixed production to reduce market distortions caused by government payments.

Other Commodities - includes dairy programs and many specialty crops such as wool, mohair, peanuts, fruits, and vegetables (approximately \$937 million).

- C Continues the dairy price support program.
- C Eliminates the sugar marketing assessment over 10 years (savings of \$440 million).
- C Provides funds to revamp the peanut program to help adjust to challenges from global markets.

Conservation - \$15.05 billion for a variety of programs, a 75 percent increase for conservation over baseline spending.

- C Expands the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to 40 million acres.
- C Reauthorizes and increases funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), the Farmland Protection Program, and Small Watershed Dam Restoration.

Trade - \$1 billion of the total package.

- C Reauthorize and increase funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) to help farmers and ranchers promote their products overseas and access foreign markets.
- C Eases procurement of food for aid to developing countries.

Food and Nutrition - \$2.3 billion over 10 years.

- C Expands the program for distribution of food to food banks and soup kitchens.
- C Increases access to the food stamp program for families in need.

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WSHGA SUMMER PICNIC
AUGUST 5, 2001

The Washington State Hay Growers Association will hold its first Summer Picnic at Community Park (formerly State Park) in Moses Lake on Sunday afternoon, August 5, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The Picnic will be hosted by the Association and will feature pit-roasted pork. All are invited to attend. Admission is free, but each family is encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert and plates and

utensils. Please RSVP to the Association office at 509/547-5538 by Wednesday, August 1.

Farm Bill Concepts, continued from front page

Research - \$700 million over 10 years.

C Increases funding for agricultural research, extension, and education programs.

Rural Development - \$785 million.

C Helps rural communities develop a needed infrastructure to prosper in the future through loans for advanced digital communications, strategic planning, and emergency grants to address water quality and quantity problems.

C Provides for value-added grants to help producers market their products further up the marketing chain.

The bill is in hearings and the markup process will begin next week. Chairman Combest intends to pass the bill out of committee prior to the August recess and move it to the House floor in September.

WESTERN PASTURE CONDITIONS POOR

While pasture conditions across the U.S. have declined in many regions, pasture conditions in California remain among the worst in the nation, according to the latest USDA crop progress report. Seventy percent of the state's pastures are in poor or very poor condition, while 30 percent are in fair condition. None are in good to excellent condition.

Conditions decline in other western states

Pastures in a number of other western and south-western states are also suffering. States with a large percentage of pastures in very poor to poor condition include Washington and New Mexico (52 percent), Wyoming (46 percent), Texas and Montana (45 percent), Oregon (41 percent), and Nevada (39 percent).

Good pasture conditions in east

Pastures in Alabama and West Virginia are among the best in the nation with 72 percent rated in good to excellent condition. Other states enjoying good to excellent pasture conditions are Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, South Dakota,

South Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana, North Dakota, and Ohio. Pasture conditions also remain good in the northeast states.

**KLAMATH FARMERS AND RESIDENTS
DEFY FEDERAL ORDER**

Using a chain saw, their bare hands, and a cutting torch, Klamath County residents and farmers opened a headgate in defiance of the April decision by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to eliminate irrigation water in the Klamath Project due to the effect of drought conditions on endangered fish in Upper Klamath Lake. Several breaches to the headgates have occurred over the past weeks. The Bureau of Reclamation is considering calling in federal marshals to protect the headgates.

In a meeting of the Klamath County Commissioners, a petition was presented with 2000 names asking for a county ordinance giving legal protection to nonviolent civil offenders who try to open gates on the federally owned Klamath Project. The county refused the request of the petitioners, noting such ordinances have been struck down in federal courts elsewhere. The Commissioners noted they have taken action by seeking assistance for the farmers and urging U.S. Interior Secretary Gale Norton to overturn the federal government's decision. Secretary Norton declined to overturn the order.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency has announced its intention to take applications for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP), which covers all crops not covered by Federal Crop Insurance including hay and other forage crops. NAP will cover losses in excess of 50 percent of your Actual Production History (APH) due to weather-related conditions. The APH will be determined from production records provided by applicants for the past 4 - 10 years. Producers who do not or can not provide these records will use transitional yields.

The deadline to apply for the 2001 crop has not been established, but your local county FSA office is able to take applications at this time. Once the final regulations for the program are published, farmers will have 30 days to apply.

In order to stay eligible, producer must notify their county office within 15 days of the loss or when the loss becomes apparent. The application fee is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per county or \$900 for multi-county producers. The fee is non-refundable and due at the time of application.

WASHINGTON/OREGON (COLUMBIA BASIN)

Tonnage: 36,120 Week Ago: 15,655 Year Ago: 30,760

Compared to last week, Good and Premium alfalfa for export trending firm as quality test on 2nd cutting is more Good quality or Standard export hay. Trading active, demand good on moderate offerings of lower testing 2nd. Premium alfalfa dairy hay trading uneven, steady for hay with a good quality test and weak to 5.00 lower for low end Premium dairy or export slicers hay. Good alfalfa low end dairy, export slicer or cuber hay trading weak to 5.00 lower as quality levels dip on 2nd cutting and offerings increase as producers go for tonnage. Trading slow, demand moderate on mostly moderate offerings with some sellers holding for higher levels. Fair alfalfa, some with faults trading mostly steady for quality to feedlots and export cubers. Trading slow, demand moderate to good with some sellers covering stacks for sales in fall or winter. Feed store and horse sales steady to weak. Trading slow to moderate, demand light to moderate on light to moderate offerings.

Quality/Bale Size	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg	Comments
Export Alfalfa sales to move in 60 days, tops off:				
Premium 2-tie	520	120.-135.00	126.35	
Premium 2-tie	320	130.00	130.00	Ext. Del.
Premium 3-tie	220	130.00	130.00	
Premium 3-tie	500	130.00	130.00	Ext. Del.
Good 2-tie	660	115.-120.00	118.41	
Good 2-tie	470	120.-125.00	121.60	Ext. Del.
Good 3-tie	2800	118.-120.00	119.43	
Good 3-tie	12450	120.-125.00	124.22	Ext. Del.

Domestic Alfalfa sales, tops off:

Premium 2-3 tie	400	125.-132.00	128.75
Prem. mid/ton	580	110.-125.00	114.66
Good 2-3 tie	60	110.00	110.00
Good mid/ton	930	99.-110.00	106.45
Fair 2-3 tie	270	95.-100.00	98.89
Fair mid/ton	2720	95.00	95.00

13,220 tons of other hay reported. Package of Premium

alfalfa, 40 percent slight rain damage, ADF 27+ 120.00 FOB ton bales. Package of Good alfalfa, 30 percent light rain damage, ADF 30+ 100.00 FOB 1st cutting 2 tie bales. Fair to Good alfalfa, rain damage, ADF 32+ 90.00-95.00 FOB big bales. Fair alfalfa, rain damage, ADF 35+ 85.00-90.00 FOB 2 tie bales. Blue grass straw 35.00 FOB Southern Columbia Basin area ton bales. Feed store or horse accounts sales covered: Good to Premium orchard, 2 tie 75-100 lb. bale 125.00-145.00 FOB. Good orchard grass, 2-3 tie 75-125 lb. bale 110.00-120.00 FOB. Good to Premium orchard and alfalfa blend, 2 tie 75-100 lb. bale 125.00-140.00 FOB. Good orchard and alfalfa blend, 2-3 tie 75-125 lb. bale 105.00-115.00 FOB. Good to Premium timothy 135.00 FOB. Good to Premium, mostly alfalfa 2 tie 90-110 lb. bale 120.00-140.00 FOB. Good alfalfa and alfalfa and grass 2-3 tie 90-125 lb. bale 100.00-120.00 FOB.

USDA Market News

BOB STEVENS AT WSU-PROSSER
RECEIVES AWARD

Bob Stevens, Washington State University Cooperative Extension soil scientist, has been named the 14th recipient of the Kenneth J. Morrison Award in Agronomy and Soils. The award recognizes WSU extension faculty for significant contributions to agronomic crop production and soil management.

“Throughout his career, Bob has provided leadership in establishing and promoting best management practices in soil and fertilizer management for improving crop productivity and quality, water quality, and food safety,” said Bill Pan, WSU soil scientist. Pan nominated Stevens for the award. “Bob has done a yeoman’s job,” said John Burns, WSU Cooperative Extension agronomist. “He was one of the key people behind the creation of the Northwest Certified Crop Advisory Board. Certification provides growers with the assurance that the fieldmen who advise them have the training to do the job.” Bob Stevens has also been instrumental in conducting the WSHGA alfalfa variety trials.

Stevens earned a B.S. and M.S. in soils at WSU in 1966 and 1968 and a doctorate in soils at Colorado State University in 1971. He worked at Texas Tech University for six years and the Weyerhaeuser Company for eight before coming to Washington State in 1985. He is stationed at the WSU Prosser Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

WASHINGTON ST. HAY GROWERS ASSOCIATION
2002 HAY CONFERENCE

JANUARY 22 - 23, 2002
DOUBLETREE HOTEL, PASCO, WA

July 2001

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS MAKE EFFORTS TO PROVIDE DROUGHT RELIEF TO FARMERS

State Senate leaders have been building a drought relief package for farmers since reconvening Monday, July 16 for the third special session of the year. The special session was specifically targeted to resolve the state's transportation problems, with a transportation plan being pushed by Governor Gary Locke on the table, but the legislators have recognized the dire needs of agriculture also. "We have got to...move on it," said Sen. Marilyn Rasmussen, D-Eatonville, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Rasmussen said transportation fixes don't have enough momentum to pass and the session would be better spent figuring out how to keep the state's largest industry on life support. "This is the perfect time, governor, to work the issues we can work," she said. The transportation bill "ain't going to happen."

Drought relief hasn't become a legislative focus until now, partly because politicians were hoping the weather would turn, and partly because the energy crisis, a state budget crunch, and a split House made it near impossible to get anything done. But legislators are now armed with a report released in late June that pegged drought-related losses for farmers at \$270 million to \$400 million, about 12 percent of the state's annual production value. Currently, proposals center around tax relief and possible reduction of payments to the unemployment security fund for employees.

Governor Gary Locke has petitioned U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman to declare an agriculture disaster in Asotin, Chelan, Klickitat, Lincoln, Stevens, and Yakima Counties. Affected farms have estimated losses between 30 and 50 percent for wheat, barley and hay crops, and a June 27 hail storm wiped out large sections of crops near Yakima and Wenatchee.

Washington Senators Cantwell and Murray have announced \$2 million included in the supplemental appropriations bill to help Yakima Basin farmers and have requested an additional \$11.4 million in separate legislation. But, federal aid is often in the form of low-interest loans with limited use requirements. Farmers must wait and see what happens.