



Dear NFFC Members and Friends,

As the temperature heats up toward 100 in DC, Congress is moving ahead on the farm bill in the Senate and on Ag Appropriations in the House. The actual floor debate, amendments offered and floor statements can be found on thomas.gov. The following is a compilation of some of our office insight into what is going on - both from attending markups and from listening to some of the debate online. The Senate Ag Committee website includes a summary of the bill and some information on the process to date.

Senate Floor Debate on the Farm Bill:

As agreed late Monday night the votes on the 73 amendments allowed for a vote began at 2:15 PM. They continued the votes on the Senate floor until about 8 PM then took a break to deal with a Senate resolution on EPA and have just started to debate amendments at noon today.

They moved very quickly on the amendments that had been allowed. As reported yesterday many of the amendments strongly supported by NFFC including the Udall amendment on 2501, the Tester amendment on classic (non-GMO) seed research, and the Packer Ban were NOT included in the amendments. Furthermore the Brown amendment on Rural Development which did pass no longer included the additional funds for Section 2501. Efforts are still underway to push for inclusion of additional funds in 2501 in the manager's amendment but efforts are also shifting to the House Agriculture Committee as their markup on the farm bill is rumored to be on Wednesday June 27th.

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/F?r112:3:./temp/~r1120sDjKS:e41063>:

Today's amendments will include:

Sander's (D-VT) amendment on rights of states to label genetically engineered food, among many others.

Amendments that were agreed to include:

Brown (D-Ohio) amendment on Rural Development and beginning farmer though no longer included Section 2501;

Snowe (R-Maine-Gillibrand (D-NY) amendment calling for hearings on Dairy and federal milk marketing orders;

Grassley (R-Iowa) amendment with payment limit on marketing loans.

Bad amendments that were defeated include:

Toomey (R-PA) amendment to eliminate the cost-share for organic certification;

DeMint (R- SC) amendment to eliminate loan guarantees.

Good Amendments that were defeated include:

Gillibrand (D-NY) amendment to restore cuts in SNAP.

Senate Amendment Votes on the 2012 Farm Bill

June 19, 2012

Amendment	Senator	Description	Outcome
2429	Baucus (D-MT)	Livestock	Passed (voice vote)
2190	Snowe (R-ME)	Milk marketing reform	Passed (67Y 33N)
2167	Grassley (R-IA)	Pay cap marketing loans	Passed (75Y 24N)
2445	Brown (D-OH)	Rural development	Passed (55Y 44N)
2174	Sessions (R-AL)	SNAP	Defeated (43Y 56N)
2370	Cantwell (D-WA)	Pulse pilot	Passed (59Y 41N)
2243	Nelson (D-NE)	SNAP	Passed (voice vote)
2172	Sessions (R-AL)	SNAP	Defeated (41Y 58N)
2238	Casey (D-PA)	Technical/study -federal milk marketing	Passed (73Y 26N)
2181	Paul (R-K)	\$250,000 income limit	Defeated (15Y 84N)
2426	Coons (D-DE)	Poultry insurance study	Passed (voice vote)
2422	Feinstein (D-CA)	Conservation innovation grants	Passed (voice vote)
2191	Alexander (R-TN)	Wind loans	Defeated (33Y 66N)
2199	McCain (R-AZ) Kerry (D-MA)	Catfish	Passed (voice vote)
2309	Feinstein (D-CA)	Insurance recall	Passed (76Y 23N)
2396	Akaka (D-HI)	Tribal relations office	Passed (voice vote)
2440	Akaka (D-HI)	Highly fractionated tribal lands	Passed (voice vote)
2192	Ayotte (R-NH)	Value added grants	Defeated (38Y 61N)
2262	DeMint (R-SC)	SoS Free MKT	Passed (voice vote)
2263	DeMint (R-SC)	Broadband funding	Defeated (45Y 54N)
2268	DeMint (R-SC)	Loan guarantees	Defeated (14Y 84N)
2276	DeMint (R-SC)	Checkoffs	Defected (20Y 79N)
2156	Gillibrand (D-NY)	Restore funding for SNAP	Defeated (33Y 66N)
2366	Hagan (D-NC)	Crop insurance plain language	Passed (voice

			vote)
2187	Kerry (D-MA)	Commercial fishermen	Passed (voice vote)
2321	Landrieu (D-LA)	Rural development loans	Passed (voice vote)
2217	Toomey (R-PA)	Organic/AMA	Defeated (42Y 57N)

House Agriculture Appropriations for FY 2013:

On Ag Appropriations, there are many issues of major concern - but our focus was on the Kaptur amendment to strike the provision that would force USDA to rescind a major part of the poultry portion of the GIPSA rule implemented February 2012 as well as the Monsanto-supported provision on deregulation, liability and court cases related to genetically engineered contamination. In addition there was extensive debate on the need to increase funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) as it has expanded authority (and should help dairy, too) yet has been cut in this bill.

A little background on the GIPSA vote:

Rep Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) was the major voice of opposition to last year's effort to halt the whole GIPSA rule. Many groups met with her office last week to discuss the strategy as soon as we learned that the markup vehicle not only continued the halt of funds for the rest of the GIPSA rule but specifically called on USDA to rescind 3 of the 5 major sections of the poultry rule that was allowed to go forward last year and became effective in February 2012. She offered her amendment and included in the record the letters supporting her position from American Farm Bureau Federation, NFU, and 133 groups including NFFC and many of our members. She spoke eloquently on why the provision in the bill needs to be removed to protect farmers and growers. Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Georgia) supported Marcy's position and read part of the Georgia Farm Bureau newsletter that discussed why the final rule is so important. Steve Etko (representing the Campaign for Contract Ag Reform) and I had met with Bishop in the hall just prior to the debate; Rep. Bishop had heard directly from growers and constituents on this issue; he co-chairs the House Chicken Caucus and has also heard from and been supported by Tysons and others in his district. After the debate they called for the vote; On a voice vote it sounded very close with all the Democrats present voting YES and all Republicans there voting NO. The Chair ruled that the NOs won; Marcy did not call for a roll-call as it would most likely have been the same outcome as the voice vote given the Republican majority in the Committee. You can see the archive of the debate here:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/video/house-committee/hsap/23422733>, Marcy's statement starts at 54:41.

On the CFTC vote: Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA), ranking Democrat on the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, introduced a **motion to increase funding to \$224 million for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)** from the proposed \$180 million (\$25M less than 2012 levels and far less than the \$308 million the Obama administration requested to implement the Dodd-Frank law). Both Farr and Dicks (D-WA) and ranking Democrat on the Full Appropriations Committee gave impassioned speeches affirming why increased funding is needed to reign in dangerous trading practices and oversee new financial instruments, such as the exploding Over-The-Counter derivative and swaps markets. They pointed to the recent \$2 billion losses by JP Morgan as proof that regulators need more money in order to have more control. Rep. Kingston repeatedly rattled off a long list of the CFTC's expenses, arguing that the CFTC is "not a poor organization" or one that operates on thrift, and similarly cited the JP Morgan fiasco to illustrate that the CFTC is ineffective and wasteful. **The motion was voted down 19 yeas to 27 nays.** Increased funding for the CFTC would have been an important tool to help curb commodity speculation and ease volatile food, oil and gas prices which are vulnerable to excessive speculation. Fortunately the Senate appropriations bill includes the full amount requested by the Administration.

The expectation is that the Appropriations bill may go to the House floor next week. We will keep you posted on floor amendment strategy including a possible floor vote on the Monsanto-supported

amendment; see Center for Food Safety's press release from yesterday. There may also be a floor statement and/or vote regarding the GIPSA poultry provisions; the Senate bill does NOT include this bad language which makes the conference between the two bills very important.

We're also trying to eliminate funding for the animal disease traceability (ADT) rule but so far requests for amendments have been ignored/refused.