

**Subject:** Water Issue Impacts Farmer Support of Farm Bill

**Story Summary:** Water rights are such an important issue to western farmers that the nations largest farm organization plans to oppose the Senate farm bill if it contains a controversial water rights provision.

**TRT:** 1:35

**Suggested Lead:** Water is turning into big issue in the Farm Bill debate. Johnna Miller has the story.

**Suggested Supers:**

- Reno, NV  
@ :10
- Kevin Rogers, Arizona farmer  
@ :46
- Klamath Falls, OR  
@ 1:02
- Ty Kliewer, Oregon farmer  
@ 1:10
- Johnna Miller, Reporting  
@ 1:28

**Water Issue Impacts Farmer Support of Farm Bill**  
**Johnna Miller Reporting**  
**January 8, 2002**

<p>spray irrigation valve</p> <p>Wide of irrigation sprayers</p> <p>Tire of irrigation sprayer</p>	<p><b>REPORTER:</b> WATER. IT'S A NECESSITY OF LIFE AND NOW IT'S CAUSING AN UNEXPECTED WAVE OF CONTROVERSY IN THE DEBATE OVER THE FARM BILL. (WATER NAT)</p>
<p><b>Reno, Nevada</b></p> <p>Crowds at AFBF annual meeting</p> <p>Cattle herding</p>	<p><b>REPORTER:</b> SECURING A NEW FARM BILL IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR THOUSANDS OF FARMERS ATTENDING THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU'S ANNUAL MEETING IN RENO. BUT A WATER RIGHTS PROVISION IN THE SENATE'S VERSION OF THE BILL HAS MANY VERY CONCERNED... ESPECIALLY HERE IN THE WEST WHERE WATER IS A PRECIOUS COMMODITY.</p>
<p>SOT</p>	<p><b>KLIEWER:</b> WATER IS HANDS DOWN OUR MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE HERE OUT WEST.</p>
<p>SOT</p>	<p><b>ROGERS:</b> YOU KNOW WE DON'T HAVE ANY RAINFALL TO SPEAK OF IN THE WEST AND SO THE WATER ISSUE IS CRITICAL. IT'S FOREMOST TO US.</p>
<p>Wide of irrigation sprayer</p> <p>Tight shot of two sprayer valves</p> <p>Rogers talking</p>	<p><b>REPORTER:</b> THE REID AMENDMENT WOULD GIVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POWER TO BUY WATER RIGHTS FROM LANDOWNERS. BUT FARMERS LIKE ARIZONA GROWER KEVIN ROGERS SAY THE PLAN IS OVERFLOWING WITH PROBLEMS.</p>

<p><b>Kevin Rogers, Arizona farmer</b></p>	<p><b>ROGERS:</b> THE FEAR IS, YOU LOSE A BIG LANDOWNER WHO SAYS, OKAY, I'M GOING TO PUT MY WATER IN THIS SITUATION AND YOU LOSE THAT WATER OUT OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE DISTRICT TO USE AND THE DISTRICT TO SELL AND IT RAISES THE PRICE FOR EVERYBODY ELSE. SO THERE'S A LOT OF RISK AT THIS POINT.</p>
<p><b>Klamath Falls, Oregon</b> <b>Klamath Basin</b> Farmers protesting <b>Ty Kliewer talking in 2-shot</b></p>	<p><b>REPORTER:</b> SOME FEAR EVEN WORSE PROBLEMS, LIKE THOSE FACED IN OREGON'S KLAMATH BASIN. IRRIGATION WATER WAS SHUT OFF TO HUNDREDS OF FARMERS, INCLUDING TY KLIOWER.</p>
<p><b>Ty Kliewer, Oregon farmer</b></p>	<p><b>KLIOWER:</b> MANY OPERATIONS HAD TO TOTALLY LIQUIDATE THEIR CATTLE HERDS AND THEIR FLOCKS OF SHEEP.</p>
<p>AFBF annual meeting</p>	<p><b>REPORTER:</b> THE FARM BUREAU CONSIDERS THE ISSUE SO SERIOUS IT HAS PLEDGED TO OPPOSE PASSAGE OF THE SENATE BILL THAT CONTAINS IT.</p>
<p>SOT</p>	<p><b>ROGERS:</b> THIS THING JUST POPPED UP, LIKE OVER NIGHT. WE HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IT IN DEPTH. THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY HEARINGS ON IT. IT WAS JUST POOF, HERE IT IS.</p>
<p>Dry basin <b>Johnna Miller, Reporting</b> Dry soil  Reno mountains</p>	<p><b>REPORTER:</b> IF THE REID AMENDMENT BECOMES LAW MANY FARMERS FEAR WESTERN AGRICULTURE WILL JUST DRY UP. JOHNNA MILLER, RENO.</p>