

Subject: Farm Groups Urge Congress to Protect Farm Bill

Story Summary: Even though Congress passed the Farm Bill weeks ago, the debate on the legislation isn't over. Some legislators have suggested they will "revisit" some of the Farm Bill issues during the appropriations process. Farm groups are urging appropriators not to disturb the careful balance of funding for the new farm law. Representatives of those groups spoke at a recent news conference.

TRT: 1:41

Suggested Lead: Farmers are keeping a close eye on the appropriations process going on right now in Congress to see if it affects the recently passed farm bill. Johnna Miller reports.

Suggested Supers:

Bob Stallman
President, American Farm Bureau Federation
@ :15

Washington, D.C.
@ :25

Ron Heck
Vice-President, American Soybean Association
@ :32

Kenneth Hood
Chairman, National Cotton Council of America
@ :43

Johnna Miller
Reporting
@ 1:32

Farm Groups Urge Appropriators to Protect the Farm Bill
Johnna Miller Reporting
July 17, 2002

<p>Pretty shots of soybean harvesting</p> <p>Capitol dome</p> <p>More soybean harvest</p>	<p>VO/ FARMERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY BREATHED A COLLECTIVE SIGH OF RELIEF WHEN CONGRESS FINALLY PASSED THE NEW FARM BILL EARLIER THIS YEAR. BUT SOME LAWMAKERS SAY THEY WILL TO TRY TO CHANGE THE LEGISLATION THROUGH THE FUNDING PROCESS. THAT HAS MANY FARMERS HOLDING THEIR BREATH AGAIN.</p>
<p>Bob Stallman President, American Farm Bureau Federation</p>	<p>SOT/ WE ARE UNIFIED HERE IN SPEAKING UP FOR THE NEW FARM BILL AND DEFENDING IT FROM WHATEVER LEGISLATIVE ATTACKS MAY BE LAUNCHED IN THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS OR ELSEWHERE IN CONGRESS.</p>
<p>News conference shots</p> <p>Washington, D.C.</p>	<p>VO/ AT A RECENT NEWS CONFERENCE, REPRESENTATIVES FROM A COALITION OF FARM GROUPS URGED LAWMAKERS TO LEAVE THE FARM BILL INTACT.</p>
<p>Ron Heck Vice president, American Soybean Association</p>	<p>SOT/ PRODUCERS OF SOYBEANS AND OTHER CROPS ARE ALREADY DEALING WITH ENOUGH UNCERTAINTY IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS GROWING SEASON. THEY DON'T NEED FURTHER CHANGES THAT WILL ONLY ADD TO THE CONFUSION.</p>

<p>Kenneth Hood Chairman, National Cotton Council of America</p>	<p>SOT/ CHANGING GEARS IN MIDSTREAM WHEN A FARMER HAS GONE TO HIS LENDING INSTITUTION AND GOTTEN HIS LOANS AND THEN THINGS CHANGE, THAT PUTS HIM IN A VERY, VERY PRECARIOUS PREDICAMENT.</p>
<p>Cotton field Cows being herded</p>	<p>VO/ CHALLENGES TO THE NEW FARM LAW INCLUDE A BID TO LOWER ITS PAYMENT LIMIT, A BAN ON OWNERSHIP OF LIVESTOCK BY MEAT PACKERS AND FUNDING FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE.</p>
<p>Stallman SOT 13:36:33</p>	<p>SOT/ WE WON'T SUPPORT OFF-SETS FROM THE FARM BILL TO ACCOMPLISH THAT.</p>
<p>Corn harvest from combine cab Combine harvesting corn</p>	<p>VO/ WITH THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT ALREADY UNDER THE GUN TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW LAW, ANY CHANGES NOW WOULD DELAY NEEDED AID TO FARMERS.</p>
<p>Heck sot</p>	<p>SOT/ AFTER TWO YEARS OF UNCERTAINTY OVER NEW FARM LEGISLATION AND HISTORICALLY LOW PRICES NOW, FARMERS NEED STABILITY TO MAKE LONG TERM PLANS FOR THEIR OPERATIONS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE LAST THING WE NEED IS FOR CONGRESS TO REOPEN THE 2002 ACT AND START REDUCING OR MODIFYING OUR SAFETY NET.</p>

<p>Johnna Miller Reporting</p> <p>Tractor plowing field</p>	<p>VO/ AND AFTER TWO YEARS OF WORK DEVELOPING THE NEW FARM POLICY, FARMERS WILL WORK TO MAKE SURE LAWMAKERS DON'T PLOW IT UNDER. IN WASHINGTON, I'M JOHNNA MILLER.</p>
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