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Contents:

H.R. 2419 –Farm Bill Amendments PART II

H.R. 2419, the Farm Bill, is being considered on the House floor today, July 27, 2007, subject to a structured rule (H. Res. 574). The amendment summaries below reflect the remaining amendments made in order under the rule. No other amendments are in order.

All amendments are debatable for 10 minutes, except where indicated below. For a summary of the underlying bill, see separate RSC documents released yesterday.

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Remaining Amendments Made in Order by the Rule

Goodlatte (R-VA). According to the sponsor, the amendment creates one set of terms and conditions of easements for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP), Farmland and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP), and Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP).

Cardoza (D-CA). The amendment would require the USDA to transfer Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) employees, who are responsible for plant pest inspection duties, from the Department of Homeland Security to USDA management. According to the sponsor, this amendment is likely to offered and then withdrawn.

Boustany (R-LA) /Alexander (R-LA). This amendment would require that data collected by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) Pilot Program **not** be used to determine the production yield of sweet potatoes, with the intent of determining the eligibility of a sweet potato farmer for disaster payment. According to the sponsor's office, the replacement data would come from the FSA (by default). This change is being

made in response to changes made by RMA that defines what qualifies as a “marketable” sweet potato.

Jackson-Lee (D-TX). The amendment expresses the sense of Congress that food for the federal school breakfast and lunch programs should be selected so as to reduce the incidence of juvenile obesity and maximize nutritional value.

Welch (D-VT)/Acruri (D-NY). The amendment makes changes to the review process for the Federal Milk Marketing Order Review Commission. These changes require an evaluation of the cost of production of variables, including cost of feed and cost of fuel by the Commission. Additionally, it moves up the date that the commission is to submit its report from 24 months to 18 months after the enactment of H.R. 2419.

Rangel (D-NY). Allows direct transfers between Cuban and U.S. financial institutions under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. The amendment prevents the President from restricting direct transfers from a Cuban depository institution to a U.S. depository.

Boehner (R-OH). Replaces the daily posted county prices used for determining loan deficiency payment rates a repayment rates with a monthly posted county price. It would revise requirements for establishing a producer’s loan deficiency payment (LDP) and loan repayment rate to be based on the month that beneficial interest is lost. According to the sponsor, the amendment aims to address farmers taking advantage of short-term market events to lock in artificially high loan deficiency payments, while actually selling the commodity later at prices well above the loan rate.

Manzullo (R-IL). This amendment exempts the Environmental Quality Incentives Program from the \$60,000 and \$125,000 payment limits that are created in H.R. 2419. The \$450,000 payment limit that exists under current law would still apply to Environmental Quality Incentives.

Blumenauer (D-OR). The amendment allows, under the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, grants to be made for the purchase of conservation easements or other interests in land pursuant to a transferable development rights program in which the entity sells them for development consistent with local land uses plans. According to the sponsor, Transferable Development Rights (TDR) programs are a voluntary, market-based tool used by states and cities to protect farmland, private property rights, and taxpayer dollars by allowing the transfer of development rights from one parcel of land to another.

Berry (D-AR). Prevents a non-profit organization with more than \$50 million in direct public support from receiving conservation payments.

Davis (D-IL)/Kirk (R-IL). The amendment strikes the sugar sections in the commodity title as well as the feedstock flexibility program for bioenergy producers, instead extending current programs until 2012.

Terry (R-NE). The amendment creates a new program that would award grants, not to exceed \$1 million, to ten universities, for a demonstration of the effects of supplementing sweet sorghum for corn as a feedstock for ethanol. The amendment authorizes \$10 million for this new program.

Udall (D-CO). The amendment reduces the direct payment rate for cotton from “\$0.0667” to “\$0.06.” The amendment uses this savings to increase the Grassland Reserves Program by 224,000 acres (from 2,000,000 acres to 2,224,000 acres).

Putnam (R-FL). Places an income limit on conservation payments, which is set by the amendment at \$1 million for an individual or entity. An exception is provided for individuals or entities that earn more than 75 percent of their income from agriculture related activities.

Cooper (D-TN). The amendment makes major changes to the Federal Crop Insurance Program. Producers would pay an administrative fee equal to 25 percent of the premium amount for catastrophic risk protection. Sets a limit of \$5,000 on such fees.

Hall (D-NY). Authorizes \$50 million a year from 2008 to 2012 for a new, muck soils conservation program. The program would allow payments of not less than \$300 and not more than \$500 per acre.