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FARM COMMODITY LEGISLATION IN THE
NINETY-SECOND CONGRESS --
FIRST SESSION

CONGRESSIONAL
RESEARCH SERVICE

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FARM COMMODITY LEGISLATION IN THE
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The Agricultural Act of 1970 approved in November 1970 (P.L. 91 524) extended the price support and adjustment programs for cotton, feed grains, wheat, and wool for another three years. It also revised and extended the Class I base plan for milk producers for a similar period.

Price supports and adjustment programs for peanuts, rice and tobacco and price supports for soybeans and milk for manufacturing uses have been based on continuing legislation for several years and new legislation for these commodities is only proposed from time to time where changes in the governing legislation are urgently needed.

The price support, supply adjustment and import quota legislation relating to sugar expired in 1971. For this reason consideration of a bill to extend the Sugar Act was given priority attention by both the House Agriculture Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

A bill extending the Sugar Act through December 31, 1974 (H.R. 8866) was approved by the House of Representatives, June 10, 1971, by the Senate July 28, 1971 and after some delay to adjust differences between the House and Senate bills, was approved by the President in early October (P.L. 92-138).

Legislative History (H.R. 8866)

2-09-71 Committee hearings begun
3-04-71 3-26-71, 3-29-71, 4-19-71, 4-20-71, 4-21-71, 4-22-71, 4-23-71,
4-26-71, 4-27-71, 4-28-71, 4-29-71, 4-30-71, 5-03-71 Committee
hearings held
5-06-71 Committee hearings concluded
6-02-71 H.R.8866 Referred to House Committee on Agriculture

6-06-71 Reported to House, H. Rept. 92-245
 6-10-71 Measure considered
 6-10-71 Measure passed House, roll call #130 (229-128)
 6-11-71 Referred to Senate Committee on Finance
 6-24-71 6-29-71, 6-30-71, 7-07-71, 7-08-71, 7-13-71, 7-14-71,
 7-20-71 Committee executive session held
 7-24-71 Reported to Senate, amended, S. Rept. 92-302
 7-27-71 7-28-71 Measure considered
 7-28-71 Measure passed Senate, amended, roll call #173 (76-22)
 7-28-71 8-03-71 Conference scheduled
 8-20-71 9-21-71, 9-22-71 Conference held
 9-23-71 Conferees agreed to file a conference report on measure
 9-29-71 Conference report filed in House, H. Rept. 92-527
 9-29-71 Conference report filed in Senate, S. Rept. 92-381
 9-29-71 Conference report considered in Senate
 9-29-71 Senate agreed to conference report
 10-04-71 Conference report considered in House
 10-04-71 House agreed to conference report, roll call #287 (194-91)
 10-14-71 Public law 92-138

In addition to extending the Sugar Act until December 31, 1974, it provides for additional flexibility in the establishment of domestic allotments of sugar cane and sugar beets, and makes minor revisions in the quotas of countries importing sugar into the United States. Where sugar is imported from a country in which the property of U.S. nationals has been expropriated, it strengthens the provisions for the reimbursement of U.S. individuals and corporations for their losses.

Legislative activities relating to dairy price supports were directed almost entirely toward increasing the manufacturing milk price support level in 1971-72.

As April, the beginning of the 1971-72 dairy marketing year approached, a number of dairy price support bills were introduced in both the House and the Senate. These bills almost uniformly set a minimum price support

level of 85 percent of parity for manufacturing milk in the 1971-72 marketing year. This was equivalent to \$4.93 per 100 pounds, \$.27 higher than the 1970-71 support level.

In mid-March Secretary Hardin announced that the support level for manufacturing milk in 1971-72 would be continued at the 1970-71 level of \$4.66 per 100 pounds. In the days immediately following this announcement a large number of bills were introduced, raising the price support for the 1971-72 year to 85 percent of parity.

Before the Agricultural Committees of the House and Senate took action on these bills, however, Secretary Hardin made a second announcement raising the price support for manufacturing milk to 85 percent of parity, thus by administrative action, achieving the objective of the bills.

The Secretary's obligation to support the price of butterfat was suspended until April 1974 by the Agricultural Act of 1970 and butterfat price supports were reduced 2 cents a pound.

A number of bills were introduced which would authorize the lease and sale of tobacco allotments. Several of the new tobacco bills authorized poundage quotas and one would authorize a diversion program for tobacco growers.

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 44) to extend the time for the proclamation of marketing quotas for burley tobacco for the 3 years beginning October 1, 1971 was approved by the Congress and signed by the President, as P.L. 92-1, March 1, 1971.

Legislative History (S.J. Res. 44)

2-18-71 Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
 2-24-71 Committee executive session held
 2-24-71 Reported to Senate, S. Rept. 92-20
 2-24-71 Measure considered
 2-24-71 Measure passed Senate
 2-25-71 Measure considered
 2-25-71 Measure passed in lieu of H.J. Res. 365
 3-01-71 Public law 92-1

The other tobacco price support bills receiving committee attention were those authorizing poundage quotas in lieu of acreage allotments for burley tobacco and the lease and transfer of burley tobacco allotments within counties. A bill (S. 789) including these provisions was approved by the Congress and signed by the President, as P.L. 92-10, April 14, 1971.

Legislative History (S. 789)

2-11-71 Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
 3-02-71 Hearings held by Subcommittee on Agricultural Production,
 Marketing and Stabilization of Prices
 3-17-71 Committee executive session held
 3-24-71 Reported to Senate, S. Rept. 92-45
 3-29-71 Measure considered
 3-29-71 Measure passed Senate, amended
 3-30-71 Referred to Committee on Agriculture
 3-31-71 Committee executive session held
 3-31-71 Reported to House, amended, H. Rept. 92-98
 4-01-71 Senate agreed to House amendments
 4-01-71 Measure considered
 4-01-71 Measure passed House, amended
 4-14-71 Public law 92-10

Bills to transfer feed grain history to a few sugar beet growers, where the factory had closed, were approved by the Senate and the House Agriculture Committees but were defeated in the House.

A number of bills were introduced which would have amended feed grain and wheat price supports. Some increased the benefits for small producers, a number would have made advance payments mandatory, some preserved feed grain history under special circumstances and several would have increased the minimum market price support levels.

A bill (H.R. 1163) to create a strategic reserve of feed grains and wheat was introduced in the House and similar bills (S. 2648 and S. 2729) adding other commodities to the strategic reserve were introduced in the Senate. The strategic reserve bill (H.R. 1163) and a bill increasing feed grain and wheat price supports 25 percent when carryover stocks are increased, (H.R. 8564) was approved by a subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee in September. These two bills were combined (H.R. 1163) and approved by the House of Representatives December 8, 1971.

Legislative History (H.R. 1163)

1-22-71 Referred to House Committee on Agriculture
 9-15-71 Hearing held by Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains
 9-16-71 Hearings concluded by Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains
 9-28-71 Executive session held by Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains
 9-28-71 Approved for full committee
 10-04-71 Committee executive session held and measure ordered reported
 10-18-71 Reported to House, amended, H.Rept. 92-575
 11-30-71 Hearings begun by Committee on Rules
 12-01-71 12-06-71 Hearings held by Committee on Rules
 12-08-71 Measure considered
 12-08-71 Measure passed House, amended, roll call #448 (182-170)
 12-09-71 Referred to Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
 12-15-71 Executive session held by Subcommittee on Production, Marketing and Stabilization of Prices
 12-15-71 Approved for full committee
 1-24-72 Committee hearings concluded
 1-26-72 Committee executive session held.

Legislative History (S. 2729)

- 10-20-71 Referred to Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
- 11-10-71 Hearings held and concluded by Subcommittee on Agricultural Production, Marketing and Stabilization of Prices

Legislative History (H.R. 8564)

Introduced and referred to the committee - May 19, 1971

Referred to Livestock and Grains Subcommittee - May 20, 1971

Identical to H.R. 8290:

- 5-11-71 Introduced and referred to the committee
- 5-12-71 Referred to Livestock and Grains Subcommittee
- 6-16-71 Report requested from USDA
- 7-28-71 Report from USDA - Unfavorable
- 7-29-71 Open Hearings. SERIAL J
- 9-28-71 Closed business meetings, full committee. Ordered reported to full committee
- 9-29-71 10-04-71, 11-16-71, 12-1-2-71 - Closed business meetings, full committee, Ordered reported, amended, to House, 12-2-71
- 12-2-71 Reported, amended, to House, H. Rept. 92-704. (During consideration of rule request on H.R. 1163. Rules Committee made it an order for H.R. 8290 to be offered as an amendment to H.R. 1163. H. Res. 728, H.Rept. 92-713.)
- 12-08-71 House adopted text of H.R. 8290 as amendment to H.R. 1163. See H.R. 1163 for further action.

The House approved bill (H.R. 1163) was approved by a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry in closing days of the first session of Congress and this bill was one of the first items taken up by the full committee when the second session of Congress got under way in January 1972. (The bill was defeated by a vote of 10-4 on 1/26/72)

The Senate subcommittee at the same time that it approved the House passed strategic reserve and higher price support bill, forwarded to the full committee without recommendation S. J. Res. 172, directing the Secretary of Agriculture to announce more effective 1972 adjustment programs for feed grains and wheat. (No action was taken on this resolution)

A bill (H.R. 6217) providing that unused new-farm peanut acreage remain in the State allotment was enacted as P.L. 92-62.

Legislative History (H.R. 6217)

3-17-71 Referred to Committee on Agriculture (House)
5-06-71 Hearings held by Subcommittee on Oilseeds and Rice
5-17-71 Committee executive session held
5-20-71 Reported to House, H.Rept. 92-220
6-07-71 Measure called up under motion to suspend rules and pass
6-07-71 Measure considered
6-07-71 Measure passed House
6-08-71 Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Forestry (Senate)
7-22-71 Reported to Senate, S. Rept. 92-294
7-24-71 Measure considered
7-24-71 Measure passed Senate
8-03-71 Public law 92-62

Bills to require the Secretary of Agriculture, in the event of natural disaster, to make adjustments in payment yields for producers of cotton were the subject of an open hearing by the House Agriculture, Cotton Subcommittee, but no action was taken on them.

Several bills were introduced which would have terminated all farm price support programs and others would have limited individual producers payments to \$10,000 or \$20,000 but no action was taken on these bills by either the House or the Senate Agriculture Committees.

For details on the many bills related to commodities which were introduced, the reader is referred to the Digest of Public General Bills and Resolutions.