

Farm Bill to See Senate Floor

This week, both the Senate and House Agriculture Committees displayed a bipartisan commitment to pushing the farm bill forward, and legislators indicate they will take these farm bill drafts to their respective chamber floors, sparing little time following mark up. In fact, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) introduced a motion to proceed on the farm bill Wednesday afternoon, and the Senate could begin floor debate on Monday with votes on amendments beginning as early as Tuesday.

As for the future of the farm bill in the House, Chairman Frank Lucas has indicated a June timeline for his bill's consideration on the House floor. While challenges in each chamber remain, ag policy watchers remain hopeful conference could begin by mid-summer and a new 5-year farm bill could be in place before the current extension of the 2008 Farm Bill expires Sept. 30. NSP continues to watch this process closely and will keep members informed as it goes forward next week.