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House Farm Bill Markup Confirmed

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) announced Thursday his intent to move forward May 15 with a farm bill markup. Although Republican leadership pressured the chairman to take more time and consider tougher changes in the food stamp program to gain more conservative votes, Lucas said he would still hold listening sessions first with the Republican whip's office so as to maintain his schedule and produce a bipartisan bill with Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-MN). Earlier this month, Senate Ag leadership expressed intent to markup their farm bill next week, but farm policy observers expect Senate Ag Committee action to be pushed into May, as well.