

Ag Advocate

E-NEWS

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David Price Provides Updates on Ag Issues

Discussions on Agriculture and Agribusiness in North Carolina during the recent AgForum were held over breakfast at the State Farmers Market Restaurant in Raleigh on June 25. Veteran Congressman David Price fielded questions and provided insight into the Congressional status of the Farm Bill, Energy Programs, Farm Credit Changes, Homeland Security, North Carolina Ports, Immigration and the Federal Budget.

Price, serving in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1987, represents the 4th District and serves as a majority member on the powerful House Appropriations Committee.

Biosecurity and the Homeland Security program were hot topics and Price indicated that bioterrorism threats to agriculture, particularly to animal agriculture, are being taken very seriously in DC.

Also discussed was the need for deep water ports in the state and their link to N.C. agriculture. Pork, poultry and



fertilizer are three huge items exported from the state, and the ports serve a vital incoming role for animal farmers bringing in needed feeds, too. Funding has been requested to study a new port in Brunswick County with a deeper draft than Wilmington or Morehead City. Price indicated that study funding was still possible during budget talks.

Price also indicated Congress seemed to be leaning toward maintaining current provisions of the Farm Bill with some new language about energy production from crops.

Discussions then "migrated" to the labor situation, and Price talked about the need to pass immigration reform legislation prior to the end of this year in order to "avoid contaminating" the Presidential Campaign. He heard from Agribusiness members representing growers, manufacturers and processors all expressing the need for a legal, able, available workforce.

