

Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives

Agri-Mark, Inc. – Dairy Farmers of America Northeast Council – St. Albans Cooperative Creamery – Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.

NDFC NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL EDITION ~ SPECIAL EDITION ~ SPECIAL EDITION

President Rejects Congressional Efforts To Pass Continuing Resolution - - Partial Federal Government Shutdown Is Very Possible

By Bob Gray

Well, as we all know things change by the minute or second here in Washington. So, yesterday's Newsletter regarding Congressional efforts to stave off a partial government shutdown until February 8th, 2019 by passing a six-week CR is now old news.

The President rejected that legislation and said he would veto it. He wants \$5 billion plus to continue construction on the border Wall between the U.S. and Mexico. Last night the House passed a spending bill to fund the seven remaining federal agencies by a vote of 217 to 185, mostly along party lines and sent it to the Senate. The bill contains \$5.7 billion in funding for the border Wall.

The problem in the Senate is 60 votes are needed to prevent a filibuster by the Senate Democrats. With a slim Republican majority of 51 Republicans to 49 Democrats, they do not have the votes. The President is calling on the Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to use the "Nuclear Option" to pass the spending bill. This option only requires a majority vote – 51 Senators – and has only been used to nominate judges and Supreme Court Justices. It has never been used to pass legislation. It would be a precedent breaking move with current Senate Rules if the Majority leader chose to do this. We will see what happens.

A partial government shutdown is less than 14 hours away. For USDA, all Farm Service Agency offices would be closed as well as NRCS offices.

National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard Rule Is Out

By Bob Gray

This is better known by most of you as labeling guidelines for genetically modified ingredients in food. It has been a long time in the works.

Congress passed legislation (S.764) back in 2016 which required that consumers have more information on GE ingredients in their food products. This set off the rule making process. USDA was in charge and this is one of the most highly anticipated rule makings in a long time.

Food companies initially pushed for voluntary labeling of GE ingredients but then reversed themselves and supported the final language in the legislation that called for mandatory disclosure. Since states like Vermont and Connecticut were putting in place disclosure requirements the law was passed to supersede any state laws.

USDA has run six months behind in getting this rule out and it surely will be challenged in court.

USDA gives food companies three options for labeling:

1. Display a USDA selected logo
2. Use the phrase “Bioengineered”
3. Use a QR Code

A very good disclosure in the rule is the re-assertion that milk from dairy cows who have consumed corn and soybeans most all of which come from GMO seeds will not be subject to mandatory labeling.

*Merry
Christmas*



*Happy
New Year*