

# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY



## AGRICULTURE

### USDA BUYS MORE THAN 4 MILLION POUNDS OF GROUND BEEF

■(WASHINGTON) Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman last week announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is purchasing 4.3 million pounds of bulk frozen ground beef at a delivered cost of approximately \$4.1 million. The purchases will be used for distribution in the National School Lunch Program and other federal food assistance programs.

Glickman said this purchase includes USDA beef purchases for the 1995-96 school year under Announcement LS-43, which is nearing an end. However, beef purchases will continue on a weekly basis for the 1996-97 school year.

—US DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
05/28/96

### GLICKMAN ANNOUNCES TRANSFER OF FUND TO EMERGENCY FARM LOANS

■(WASHINGTON) Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman last Friday ordered the transfer of \$16.4 million into the emergency farm loan account so that loans can continue to be made to family farmers and ranchers to help them overcome natural disasters which are affecting wide areas of the country this year. The \$16.4 million will allow the Department to make or guarantee \$56 million of emergency loans.

"The emergency loan fund was exhausted this year for the first time," Glickman said. "All \$109.3 million that was available was loaned out with nearly five months left in the fiscal year. To meet this unusually heavy demand, I have exercised the Secretary's emergency transfer authority to move funds that otherwise would not have been used from the Conservation Reserve Program to the Emergency Loan Program.

"These additional funds should be sufficient to take care of loan applications on

hand and those expected by the end of the fiscal year in September. Ample funding will be left for any needs that might arise in the Conservation Reserve Program."

At latest count, 2,260 of the nation's 3,218 counties had been designated as disaster areas, and designation requests for another 317 counties were being considered. Since last summer, most states have suffered from drought, flooding, unseasonable freezes or other weather disasters.

Family farmers and ranchers in designated counties are eligible for low-interest loans from the Farm Service Administration to help them recover from the disasters.

The most severely affected states are in the southwest, especially in the winter wheat region. Much of this year's wheat crop has dried up from lack of moisture and the harvest is expected to be seriously affected. Other states, in the midwest and elsewhere, have had excessive rain, often accompanied by severe storms, and spring freezes that damaged fruit and vegetable crops.

—US DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
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## ENERGY

### DOE APPROVES SALES OF MORE THAN 1 MILLION BARRELS OF STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE CRUDE OIL

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) last Friday completed its second sales cycle for Strategic Petroleum Reserve crude oil, approving offers from three companies to purchase nearly 1.1 million barrels of oil.

DOE decided to end the second cycle Friday when the latest round of "best and finals" did not produce additional offers that met the Government's acceptable price threshold. Last Wednesday, the Department said that three bids met the price requirements and that the agency hoped to attract additional acceptable offers by extending the bid cycle another day.

The oil is part of approximately 12 million barrels being offered to the market following President Clinton's April 29 directive to begin the oil sale. Last week's sale brought more than \$21 million in revenue to the Government, approximately one-tenth of the \$227 million that Congress — as part of the recent 1996 budget agreement — directed be obtained from selling oil from the

Government's 587-million-barrel emergency oil stockpile.

The crude oil will be sold to Basis Petroleum Inc. (formerly Phibro Energy USA), Houston, Texas; Exxon Company USA, Houston; and Coastal States Trading Inc., Houston.

—US DEPT. OF ENERGY  
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## GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

### CLINTON NAMES JEANNE GIVENS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT

■(WASHINGTON) The President last Friday announced his intent to nominate Jeanne Givens to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development.

Jeanne Givens of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, is a member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and was the first Native American woman elected to the Idaho House of Representatives in 1984 and 1986. She was appointed by Idaho Governor John Evans to serve on the Idaho Humanities Council from 1980 to 1984.

The Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development is responsible for the direction and control of the Institute of American Indian Arts. The mission of the Institute is to promote the preservation and development of American Indian and Alaska Native arts and culture through programs of education and outreach to students, tribal communities and the public. The Institute is the only educational institution in the World devoted solely to the study and practice of the artistic and cultural traditions of all American Indians.

—THE WHITE HOUSE  
05/28/96

### INHOFE RATES AMONG BEST IN FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

■(WASHINGTON) U.S. Senator James M. Inhofe, R-Oklahoma, ranks near the top of the U.S. Senate in fiscal responsibility, according to a detailed legislative analysis prepared by the non-partisan National Taxpayers Union. Only seven out of 100 senators ranked better than Inhofe in the NTU's an-

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*"Although he's regularly asked to do so, God does not take sides in American politics."*

*George J. Mitchell  
at Iran-Contra hearings  
July 13, 1987*