

# Enzi, Barrasso vote for farm bill

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From staff and wire reports

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WASHINGTON -- Wyoming's two U.S. senators joined other Republicans in defying a veto threat by President Bush, voting Thursday in favor of a \$290 billion farm bill that will increase food aid for the needy as well as subsidies for farmers.

They were among 35 of the Senate's 49 Republicans who voted Thursday with Democrats to send the measure to the White House, in spite of Bush's strong opposition.

Enzi decried the size of the farmer subsidies in the legislation.

"It is true that our nation's producers are facing higher costs to fill their tanks, fertilize their fields, feed their livestock and pay for their health care," Enzi said in a news release. "However, this farm bill does not go far enough to cut the subsidies handed out to the wealthiest of farmers."

But the state's senior senator, along with Barrasso, pointed to provisions that they said will help farmers and ranchers in Wyoming:

\* Mandated implementation of country-of-origin labeling intended to help American farmers and ranchers market their products. Such a requirement "provides consumers with important information about the source of food and allows our livestock producers, who produce the highest quality meats in the world, to remain competitive in a growing global market," Enzi said.

\* A provision making brucellosis a high-priority research initiative in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and clarifications for animal health and disease research that Enzi said "provide vital applied animal research to producers on the ground."

\* A provision to promote veterinary drug research at the University of Wyoming. Barrasso said it allows research aimed at developing sheep medicines and brucellosis vaccine for cattle.

"This amendment is a victory for the livestock industry in Wyoming," Barrasso said in a news release. "I am proud it has been included in this bill. The amendment is important to keep Wyoming's sheep producers competitive in the world market."

\* A disaster trust fund that would allow Wyoming producers payment for grazing losses due to drought and would cover losses on federal grazing allotments.

\* A \$6.5 billion expansion of existing conservation programs. "These programs are working in Wyoming," Barrasso said.