

Ag Law Weekly

Top Headlines in Agricultural & Food Law News

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Proposed bill to remove cannabis as a Schedule I substance

The U.S. House of Representatives is set to vote this month on the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2019. The proposed legislation would remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act. The bill would also expunge federal marijuana convictions and arrests and allot funds to assist those affected by the war on drugs. This legislation would only legalize marijuana on the federal level, leaving further regulation of the drug up to states. If the bill passes the House, it will move to the Senate. Read more [here](#).

USDA publishes final rule for highly erodible land and wetlands

Last week the USDA published its final rule updating conservation provisions for highly erodible land and wetlands. Producers must comply with these provisions in order to qualify for many USDA programs. The rule contains many of the changes included in the [interim final rule](#) published in December 2018 while also adding new changes, such as clarifying how wetland hydrology is identified for farmed wetlands and farmed wetland pasture. The updates faced backlash from the American Farm Bureau Federation, with President Zippy Duvall saying the rule "falls short." Read more [here](#). Find the final rule [here](#).

Bayer appeals California Supreme Court ruling in Roundup case

Last week Bayer appealed the California Supreme Court's ruling in a case concerning the company's herbicide Roundup. The ruling awarded \$20.5 million to the plaintiff who claimed that Roundup caused his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In its appeal, Bayer argues that the ruling went against federal law and legal principles. The plaintiff was originally awarded \$289.2 million by a San Francisco jury, which was reduced to \$78.5 million by the trial judge, and further reduced to \$20.5 million by the Court of Appeals. Read more [here](#).



From the NALC

Buzzing Home: FWS Determines No Critical Habitat for Bumblebee Species: Last Tuesday, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service announced its decision not to designate critical habitat for the endangered rusty patched bumblebee. At the time the bumblebee was listed as endangered in January, 2017, FWS determined that designation of critical habitat "may be prudent." Now, FWS has completed their final determination that it would not be prudent to designate critical habitat for the bumblebee because loss of habitat is not a primary threat to the bumblebee, and availability of habitat will not affect conservation efforts. Staff Attorney Brigit Rollins discusses the decision [here](#).

