

## Oklahoma Farm Report

### **House Ag Committee Ranking Member Frank Lucas Thinks Democrats May Have Overreached with Senate Climate Change Proposal October 8, 2009**

Cap and Trade, Ag Appropriations, Conservation and COOL were among the topics that we covered with the top Republican on the House Ag Committee on Thursday afternoon. We began our conversation with Congressman Frank Lucas from Oklahoma's Third District talking Climate Change- and he expressed the hope that perhaps the proposal by Senator Barbara Boxer of California is so onerous and a bill that will be disliked on so many fronts- that a broad coalition will kick it to the curb. He tells us that he has heard from several Senators that the chances of seeing a Climate Change bill emerge from the Senate are almost nil here in 2009- and limited at best in the first few months of 2010. Lucas believes that as we draw closer to the November elections next year, those chances for a bill grow smaller and smaller.

He confirmed that he was one of many Republicans that chose to vote against the Ag Appropriations Conference Report- saying the amount of money that has been shoveled toward nutrition programs is almost beyond belief- and in many cases as the expense of other needed programs within the Agency. He points out the base nutrition programs are entitlements- so spending will automatically rise to whatever level is demanded- so dumping more money and enhancing the existing programs don't make a lot of sense.

He expressed no surprise that the Canadians have decided to call for a Dispute Settlement Panel over the US Country of Origin Labeling law- and also expressed no surprise from the Ag Approps bill that funding for NAIS (Animal ID) is some two thirds less than what the USDA asked for.

To listen to interview click this link:

[http://oklahomafarmreport.com/wire/news/02083\\_FrankLucasQ\\_A10082009\\_164020.php](http://oklahomafarmreport.com/wire/news/02083_FrankLucasQ_A10082009_164020.php)