The United States Congress will decide tomorrow whether to accept the 2007 Farm Bill into legislation or redecide on a revised version of the bill. The current deadline for the presentation of a revised version of the bill was March 15. Smith said that at this point, it would be “impossible to complete the bill on time.”

Smith said that the House will have no problem producing a bill, but it’s up to the Senate if it wants to get the job done. “It’s up to Congress if they’re going to sign a one- or two-week extension,” he said. “The president extended the deadline to May 26, but the policy decision will be up to Congress.”

Assistant Features Editor

Madeleine H. Seipel

Seipel said he thinks the 2007 Farm Bill was written to produce a safety net under the new Farm Bill, while the policy decision is being made to rolled back the safety net under the new Farm Bill. Hawkins said the 2007 Farm Bill “is likely to be the most important issue Congress needs to decide on this Farm Bill, and it’s the most important issue that the states can be involved in a national program.”

Even though it’s not right now, we have roosters in the Bootheel who are anxious to get in the field, and that’s the same way all across the country, and that’s why we need that safety net.”

Garrett Hawkins, National Legislative Program Director for the Missouri Farm Bureau

“Every farm bill written since then, from 1933 to 1996, has been a compromise,” Seipel said. “That means that there have been compromises at every level.”

“It’s for the benefit of the consumers, so that they can look back on this as a missed opportunity,” Seipel said. "What I would want folks to remember is that Congress needs to provide some stability for these farmers in order to keep the government going."