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FARM FORUM

by United States Senator Bob Dole

American farmers have cracked the \$7 billion barrier in farm exports. Farm product exports hit a record high of \$7.2 billion in 1970, according to a recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is good news to both farm producers and consumers, and is just a beginning.

It is most important that agricultural exports be expanded, as a means of stabilizing and improving the cash price American farmers received on the domestic market. I am not satisfied with the results of earlier trade negotiations. If U.S. farm exports are to reach our \$10 billion goal by the next decade --- a necessary objective --- they must move competitively in the world markets. Unlike previous farm programs, it is this Administration's policy to stimulate export markets for U.S. farm families.

The new agricultural policy, in its emphasis on market expansion, is oriented toward a market concept that allows the farmer to make most of the decisions. This is in distinct contrast to the previous supply management, government controlled view of commodity movements. This earlier policy assumed that men in Washington had greater market and production wisdom than the American farmer.

By the end of the 1970 marketing year (June 30, 1971), farmers will have made considerable progress in keeping the government out of the agricultural commodities sales market. Data such as statistics on reduction of carryover stocks bear this out:

	<u>1969</u>	<u>Est. 1971</u>	<u>Reduction in Carryover</u>
Wheat	819 mil. bus.	725 mil. bus.	-94 mil. bus.
Feed grains	50 mil. tons	34 mil. tons	-16 mil. tons
Soybeans	324 mil. bus.	75 mil. bus.	-249 mil. bus.
Cotton	6.5 mil. bales	5 mil. bales	1.5 mil. bales

By the end of this marketing year, the Commodity Credit Corporation will have disposed of all or nearly all of its stock of soybeans and corn. It is this Administration's policy to develop programs that will prevent commodities from being "dumped" on the market to hold prices down. Implicit in this concept is the need for agriculture to hold and expand its markets, and achieve higher farm income. Due to such actions as the recent negotiations by the International Wheat Council, there is good reason to believe that additional markets can be stimulated, and in turn, farm incomes can be boosted.