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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOLE ANNOUNCES FERTILIZER MEETING

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole announced an open meeting to discuss solutions to the fertilizer shortage. At the Senator's request, Frank Mosier, State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Director, will chair the meeting to be held at 10:00 AM, Friday, March 29, 1974, in Williams Auditorium, Unger Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan. Details are being arranged through the Extension Service at Kansas University, on Service Director.

Representatives of all fertilizer companies supplying Kansas and any farmer, fertilizer distributor or dealer have difficulty with his supply of plant nutrient are invited to attend.

"As I urged at a fertilizer industry conference in February, something needs to be done to relieve the severe hardships farmers with little or no fertilizer are suffering," Dole said. "I hope something like this can be worked out at the meeting. Many people have looked to the government for an allocation program. I believe it would be more in keeping with our free market economy and more beneficial in the long run if individual fertilizer companies would take action to relieve hardships."

Dole has requested that Bill Taggart of the Senate Agriculture Committee also be present. Fertilizer company representatives will have an opportunity to individually address all farmers and dealers present.

Senator Dole received a letter today from Edwin Wheeler, President of the Fertilizer Institute today concerning the Senator's request for a Cost of Living Council accounting of where fertilizer supplies are going. According to Wheeler, Kansas received a 38 percent increase in fertilizer in the last half of 1973 compared to the same period of 1972. The Fertilizer Institute said that there is "no sign of discrimination either for or against Kansas."