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# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## USDA TO INCREASE TECHNICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL FOR CONSERVATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--An official of the Department of Agriculture informed Senator Bob Dole today that the Soil Conservation Service plans to increase its technical service personnel ceiling and hire 200 additional full-time conservationists and 370 part-time assistants to help with the technical assistance in the operation of the REAP and RECP programs.

Senator Dole had requested hearings to be conducted by the Subcommittee of Agricultural Production, Marketing, and Stabilization of Prices to investigate how the USDA planned to implement the two conservation programs while the Soil Conservation Service was facing a reduction in the number of technical service personnel.

As a result of a court decision, the impounded REAP funds from fiscal 1973 were ordered to be utilized and caused the 1973 program to be reinstated along with the new longer term RECP program created by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973. With the two parallel programs to administer, the farmers were faced with not having any technical advice on the implementation of their proposed conservation plans for their farms.

When Dole learned of this he asked the Agriculture Committee, of which he is a member, to conduct hearings of the subject in an effort to encourage the USDA to maintain adequate personnel to implement the program properly.

"Conservation of our soil and maximum utilization of moisture are still two basic premises of farming. The REAP, RECP and other conservation programs are probably the most important farm legislation to farmers. I am pleased to learn that the USDA will announce this increase in personnel for this purpose at my hearings tomorrow."