



NEWS from

U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE CRITICIZES LIVESTOCK LOAN REGULATIONS

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole yesterday criticized, in a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and in a statement before the Senate, the Department of Agriculture's handling of the Emergency Livestock Credit Act, which he helped author.

"Many farmers who have suffered severe livestock losses find themselves declared ineligible for loan guarantees," Dole stated, "and as one who helped author this legislation, I can personally say that a primary intent of Congress was that this law should help family farmers." Any law is ineffective unless the regulations are well written and these regulations need to be changed."

Dole cited quotations from debate in the House of Representatives and the Senate Agriculture Committee report stressing the importance of helping family farmers. Dole pointed out that only seven loan guarantees for a total of \$987,000 have been authorized for the State of Kansas since the bill was enacted on July 25, 1974.

The Senator stated that with losses in the Kansas livestock industry in recent months exceeding \$600 million, Farmers and ranchers are obviously in need of a greater level of assistance than they have received to date.

Dole was contacted by numerous farmers who indicated to him that their loan applications to the Farmers Home Administration have been denied. Dole learned that eligible applicants must have a majority of income and a majority of working time related to the livestock industry before becoming eligible for loan guarantees under the program

Senator Dole argued that many family farmers depend greatly upon livestock operations and have for many years. Yet their livestock operations do not provide a majority of their income or receive a majority of their working time. Since congressional intent specifically included family farmers, Dole said that the Department of Agriculture regulations must be revised.

The requirement for a majority of income from livestock operations is particularly inappropriate for many Kansas farmers since the livestock market has been depressed for many months while markets for their other crops have shown greater strength.

Dole expressed his intent to work within the Senate and the Senate Agriculture Committee, if necessary, to get the program revised.