



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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(R.-Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

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CONTACT: MIKE BAROODY

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EARLY ACTION ON FARM POLICY AMENDMENTS PREDICTED

Washington, D.C. -- The Senate Agriculture Committee will begin extensive hearings on farm programs early in the 94th Congress, Senator Bob Dole said today. The Senator, who will be top ranking Republican on the Senate panel in the new Congress, said that he expected "numerous proposals for amending and improving" the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act (the Farm Bill) of 1973.

"The problems our farmers have faced the past two years," Dole said, "make it imperative that we get busy right away in order to meet these problems head on and take early action to minimize them."

Dole said he expects the hearings to begin in early February and hopes they will lead to floor action on proposed amendments "by planting season". Dole listed several areas which, he said, were "ripe for attention". These include:

- possible increases in Food for Peace assistance programs;
- the plight of the livestock producer and dairyman who have been faced with rising costs and diminishing returns on their investments; and
- proposals for the continued development of markets for grain, livestock and dairy products overseas.

Dole also said that continuing support by some in Congress for the establishment of commodity reserves and the possible imposition of export controls will "practically guarantee" hearings on these subjects as well. Dole said that he remains opposed to both concepts "until and unless it can be demonstrated that reserves and controls can be legislated without adversely affecting the market and bankrupting farmers."