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THIRTY-SEVEN KANSAS COUNTIES APPROVED FOR FARM DISASTER LOAN ASSISTANCE

WASHINGTON-- Thirty-seven Kansas counties have been approved for farm disaster loan assistance by the Farmers Home Administration, Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced Tuesday.

Kansas farmers in the thirty-seven counties would be eligible for emergency loan assistance because of drought conditions that have existed since June 1, 1980.

"Adequate emergency loan funds have been made available by the Congress to meet the needs in Kansas," according to Senator Dole.

"Applications for emergency farm loans are being taken immediately in the county offices of the FmHA that serve the thirty-seven eligible counties," Dole added.

Dole stated that to be eligible for an emergency loan, a farmer would have to have suffered at least a-20 percent loss in one or more crops, and be without an adequate source of private credit. Loans would be made after actual losses were determined by harvesting the damaged crop.

The interest rate on loans to cover actual losses is 5 percent. Emergency loans to refinance operating credit and for annual production loans carry a 13½ percent interest rate. Emergency loans for real estate debts carry a 12½ percent interest rate.

The Kansas counties declared eligible Tuesday by the Farmers Home Administration for emergency credit were: Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Butler, Chase, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Cloud, Coffey, Cowley, Crawford, Dickinson, Douglas, Elk, Ellsworth, Franklin, Geary, Greenwood, Labette, Lincoln, Linn, Lyon, Marion, McPherson. Miami, Mitchell, Montgomery, Morris, Neosho, Osage, Ottawa, Rice, Saline, Shawnee, Wabaunsee, Wilson, and Woodson.

Dole said more Kansas counties are expected to be approved for disaster loans in the next few weeks as further information is obtained from local county officials.