

BOB DOLE



(R-Kansas) ---2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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DOLE CHARGES USDA 'NEW MATH' CAMOUFLAGES FARM INCOME DROP

Hutchinson, Kansas....Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan) Saturday charged the Administration is trying to camouflage sharply dropping farm income with a 'new math.'

Dole, in Hutchinson to attend the Kansas State Fair, said, "USDA's new definition of farm income is designed to minimize the disastrous farm policies of this administration and is nothing but an election-year ploy."

The Kansas Senator said, "USDA is planning to implement a new method for computing net farm income. The new method for farm income will show 1980 income declining anywhere from 11 percent to 22 percent instead of the previous published figures of from 22 percent to 37 percent."

The Senator charged, "USDA can 'recalculate' this year's net farm income, but any way they figure it, our farmers in Kansas face a very grim situation this year and farmers certainly aren't going to be fooled by arithmetic juggling by USDA in Washington. Under the 'new math' farmers won't have any more cash to pay their bills and to buy needed supplies."

Dole said, "USDA pronouncements, before the 'new math', confirmed my earlier warning that American farmers face a drop of nearly 40 percent in purchasing power. The worst economic crisis to confront American agriculture since the Great Depression."

Dole pointed out that farmers in his own state of Kansas face a serious decline in production of major crops. Corn yields are expected to be down 38 percent; sorghum grain, 44 percent; and soybeans down 37 percent, based on August assessments by agricultural experts in the state.

"We need an effective farm program, not bureaucratic 'new math' that leaves our farmers with a pig in a poke," Senator Dole said.

Dole contended the administration's lack of an effective farm program has resulted in "crop failures being the mainstay of their efforts to strengthen farm prices."