

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

DOLE MEETS WITH KANSAS AGRICULTURE GROUPS

WASHINGTON -- "This has been an active week in Washington for agriculture concerns, especially for farm groups from Kansas," said Senator Bob Dole.

"Despite the demands of working on the federal budget, it was a pleasure to be able to meet with so many Kansas farmers."

During the week of March fifth, Senator Dole met with no less than five major national and state farm organizations including the National Farmers Union, the Kansas Farm Bureau County Presidents, the American Soybean Association, the National Milk Producers Federation and the Farmland Industries Board of Directors. The senator discussed legislative initiatives, reviewed the outlook for the U.S. farm economy and pledged continued cooperation with state agriculture representatives.

"The groups left behind many fruitful ideas," said Senator Dole, "and we are going to be working closely with their Kansas and Washington representatives to help restore profitable economic conditions for American farmers."

"Some of the ideas that have come out of these meetings include ways to improve the effectiveness of the Reduced Acreage Program for wheat and feed grains. I think all farmers realize that, whether the incentives are adequate or not for each individual operation, our oversupply situation simply is not going to go away without everyone doing their part. For Kansas farmers who had already prepared seedbeds when the RAP was announced last Fall, I would hope that the less promising acres can be taken out of production before harvest to help prevent low prices."

"For those of us in Washington who are concerned with agriculture, we are trying to do our part in getting prices up by expanding export markets for farm products. Thirteen Senators on the Senate Agriculture Committee signed my letter to President Reagan calling for financing of a Revolving Fund to supply direct credits to importing countries. It's hard to find the money when we're also working to close the alarming deficit in the federal budget and bring interest rates down, but we're hopeful that the Revolving Fund can be established this year," said the senior Agriculture Committee member.

"The reentry of the Soviet Union in the U.S. grain market last month was another hopeful sign. Soviet purchases this year are approaching 13 million tons, and we are strongly encouraging additional sales up to the maximum allowed of 23 million metric tons. We need to carefully assess the need for continuing a trading structure between our two countries as a means of restoring our premier position as a supplier to the Soviet market."

"I've asked every group in town this week not to turn their back on Washington when they go home," said Senator Dole. "This is an election year, and the tendency is for Congress to sit in its hands and avoid tough decisions. I don't think we can afford triple-digit budget deficits and the persistent high interest rates which accompany them. Kansas and American agriculture won't survive another year of low prices and high interest rates. Farmers need to keep the pressure on those of us in Washington to see that we get the job done."