

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE CALLS FOR FURTHER ACTION ON EXPORTS, STORAGE CRISIS

WASHINGTON -- Commenting that the Administration's attempt to subsidize wheat to the Soviet Union is a good first step, but falls far short of what is needed to significantly boost U.S. Farm exports, Sen. Bob Dole (R-KS) stated he would talk to Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng on Monday.

"The Administration's announcement should help wheat, but we also need to sell some corn and soybeans. We'll have a bumper harvest this fall and time is running out to act on storage so I intend to raise these issues with Dick Lyng Monday."

Dole also indicated a hand-delivered letter will be sent to Secretary Lyng Monday urging the Administration to expand its competitive-price program across-the-board for corn, soybeans and other commodities to all legal markets and to act quickly to address the impending storage crisis.

In his letter, Dole notes the Administration's announcement is likely to discriminate against exports of corn to the Soviets and could well result in lost sales of all U.S. farm products to other countries. Dole's letter also reiterates his concern expressed in an earlier letter on the need to encourage movement of grain and soybean stocks out of critical production areas and into emergency storage.

"The potential movement of competitively-priced wheat into export will complicate and could have an adverse impact on markets and prices for corn, other feed grains, and soybeans. There is already very little activity in Midwest feed markets, and the lack of available storage capacity promises to trigger a major crisis during this Fall's bumper harvest."

"While the Soviets have already bought more than the four million metric tons of U.S. corn required by the Long-Term-Grain Agreement, there should be no disincentive for them to buy more," Dole wrote.

Dole's letter reiterates his interest in meeting with the President.

In related comments, Dole called on the House of Representatives to continue efforts to pass legislation mandating an across-the-board expansion of the Export Enhancement Program.