

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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### DOLE URGES LOAN ELIGIBILITY FOR FLOOD DAMAGED CROPS

Washington, D.C. -- Citing widespread flooding and an early sprouting of the state's milo, corn and soybean crop, Kansas Sen. Bob Dole today urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture to give "immediate consideration" to a Kansas Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) request to make sample grade grain eligible for CCC commodity loans.

In a hand-delivered letter to Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng, Dole noted that "much of the state's milo crop has begun sprouting and indications are that sprouting has begun in corn and soybeans as well" as a result of heavy rains and flood conditions in the southeast and southcentral regions of the state.

"Sprout damage has registered at levels over 15-percent in many representative samples graded by the Kansas Grain Inspection Service," Dole wrote. "As a result, the grain has received a sample grade designation, rendering producers ineligible for CCC commodity loans. This could severely restrict producers cash flow and complicate marketing decisions at a time when many producers are already experiencing great financial stress.

"I am advised a request has been submitted to Washington ASCS officials for authorization to make loans on sample grade grain for corn soybeans and milo. It appears that a precedent exists for such action as similar requests have been granted in the past based on low test weight or total damaged kernels.

"I would urge your immediate consideration of this request and would suggest that the USDA review any planned discount schedules taking into consideration existing market prices and potential impact to producers," Dole wrote.