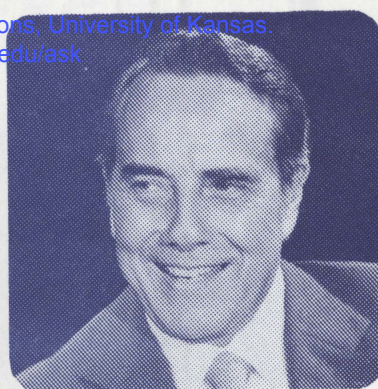


# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 20, 1988

CONTACT: WALT RIKER, DALE TATE  
(202) 224-3135

## 1988 DROUGHT DISASTER

EVERY DAY SEEMS TO BRING MORE BAD NEWS FOR MANY OF THE NATION'S FARMERS WHO ARE SUFFERING UNDER SOME OF THE WORST DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN RECENT MEMORY. MANY STATES HAVE HARDLY REGISTERED ANY NOTICABLE RAINFALL FOR THE YEAR AND THEIR CROP PROSPECTS LOOK EXTREMELY BLEAK.

THE SOIL IS LIKE CONCRETE IN MANY AREAS AND PREDICTIONS OF ANOTHER DUST BOWL ARE STARTING TO BE HEARD. THE LITANY OF FARM STATES EXPERIENCING DRY WEATHER IS INDEED OMINOUS -- INDIANA, MINNESOTA, NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA, IOWA, ILLINOIS, MICHIGAN, LOUISIANA, ARKANSAS, ALABAMA, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI, TENNESSEE, OHIO, WISCONSIN, NEBRASKA, AND PARTS OF KANSAS -- AND ONLY TIME WILL TELL HOW MANY MORE STATES ARE ADDED TO THE LIST.

WITH THE WHEAT HARVEST UNDERWAY AND THE CORN CROP NOW MATURING, THE IMPLICATIONS OF A CONTINUED DROUGHT ARE ALARMING FOR THOUSANDS OF FARMERS ACROSS THE GRAIN BELT.

THIS PAST WEEKEND I TRAVELED TO MINNESOTA, ILLINOIS AND IDAHO. ALTHOUGH WE HAVEN'T DECLARED THE CURRENT SITUATION A NATIONAL DISASTER, IT IS CLEAR THAT A LOT OF FARMERS WON'T HARVEST A CROP THIS YEAR OR ONLY A MINIMAL ONE AT BEST.

AS MY COLLEAGUES ARE AWARE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED A SAFETY NET IN TIMES OF NATURAL DISASTERS.

MR. PRESIDENT, SECRETARY LYNG AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE AND ON TOP OF THE SITUATION. SEVERAL EMERGENCY MEASURES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED. THESE INCLUDE OPENING THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM IN 17 STATES FOR HAYING FOR A 30-DAY PERIOD.

IN ADDITION, USDA HAS APPROVED HAYING AND GRAZING ON ACREAGE CONSERVATION RESERVE AND CONSERVING USE LAND IN OVER 1000 COUNTIES IN TWENTY-FOUR STATES. EMERGENCY FEED PROGRAMS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN NINE STATES AND "ZERO-92" PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR COUNTIES IN SEVEN STATES.

THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT WAS A POSITIVE STEP AND SHOULD HELP IN ASSESSING FURTHER NEEDS OF BOTH FARMERS AND NON-FARMERS.