

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 11, 1990

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DOLE URGES YEUTTER TO ANNOUNCE 1991 WHEAT PROGRAM "FARMERS NEED TO KNOW," SAYS DOLE

WASHINGTON - Senator Bob Dole (R-Ks) today urged Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter to tentatively announce the 1991 wheat program for the benefit of farmers who will be seeding their fall crops in the near future. Under the provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill, the Secretary has been required to announce tentative guidelines on June 1, with final revisions and announcement made by July 31. Those provisions do not apply to the 1991 crop year, and no announcement has been made to date.

"We are concerned that wheat producers need as much information as possible about the wheat program so that they can plan accordingly," Dole said in a letter that was co-signed by other farm state Senators.

The letter pointed out that the tentative announcement would not be binding, as work continues to be done in laying the groundwork of the commodity titles in the 1990 Farm Bill. The Senate version of the bill is expected to be introduced to the full Senate later this week, however the final Farm Bill is not expected to reach President Bush's desk until after the August recess. Although the announcement would not be binding, the current stage of the Nation's wheat harvest should provide the Secretary with sufficient guidelines in which to make projections for certain program features.

"We are all powerless to delay planting deadlines, since they are dictated by authority higher than that exercised by either the Congress or the Secretary. In the interests of fairness we believe that all farmers should have access to the information necessary to participate in the farm program well before planting time," the letter continued. "Winter wheat farmers in Kansas can benefit from a timely announcement of program details."

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