

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

KANSAS AWARDED SOIL CONSERVATION FUNDS --

DOLE ANNOUNCES FLINT HILLS RECLAMATION PROJECT

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced today that the Chase County Conservation District has been awarded an \$8,000 grant from the Chicago Board of Trade to help revitalize tall grass prairie acreage in the picturesque Flint Hills.

At a Washington breakfast, the National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation presented the grant, the first such award given by the organization. The Chase County Conservation District will use the money to purchase a grass drill, a planting machine that helps reclaim marginal cropland and erosion-prone range land. Currently, there are approximately 25,000 acres in Chase County which could be returned to natural vegetation. Dole, ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, represented Kansas at the Endowment's award breakfast.

"I am pleased that Chase County has been selected to receive this award. As every Kansan knows, the tall grass prairie is one of our real treasures -- its unique beauty should be preserved," Dole said.

Dole noted the grass drill provided by the Endowment will be rented out to private landowners at a nominal charge. The Chase County Conservation District has volunteered to pay back the \$8,000 cost of the drill during the first 10 to 13 years. The Endowment will be able to make the repayments available for new projects.

"This project for restoring the beauty and utility of this region of my State is an outstanding example of how limited funds can be targeted to achieve the greatest possible benefit. It is also an excellent demonstration of how the private sector can play a key role in our national conservation policies. I would hope that other concerned industries will also take the lead in identifying and supporting similar local and state projects that are cost-effective," Dole said.

"I congratulate Kansas State Conservationist John Tippie and the District Conservationist for Chase County, Lyle Kohlmeier, for their leadership in developing this project."