

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE: '84 WHEAT PROGRAM. "BEST WE COULD EXPECT";

TARGET PRICE FREEZE STILL BEST MEDICINE FOR AG PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole today issued the following statement following the announcement of the 1984 wheat program details by the Department of Agriculture:

"I am pleased that Secretary Block took the initiative to announce details of the 1984 wheat program this past Friday. The fact that Congress has failed to act on the proposed target price freeze, and that this inaction has delayed the wheat announcement, is regrettable. It is equally unfortunate that farmers are still faced with two options involving production, management and compensation rates. However, the final announcement will be clear by the end of this week, depending on whether Congress is willing to consider the target price issue."

"I have stated since January that scheduled target price increases should be reduced to control farm program costs and increase funding for exports. If the higher targets come to pass, it will be a poor allocation of resources available to the farm sector. It will also fail to stem a strong anti-farm-cost movement growing in Congress and elsewhere thanks to the uncontrolled federal expenditures on farm programs."

"Nonetheless, the program announced by Secretary Block is about the best we could expect, and should attract a good level of participation. Even with the lower 75 or 80 percent PIK payment, I expect that many Kansas farmers will make themselves eligible for basic program benefits, regardless of what Congress does on target prices this week."

"We may take one last look at the target price question before the recess on August 5. If we make no progress, the Secretary will make a final announcement by August 15. After that, we will go on to other issues -- I don't expect any changes in the 1984 wheat program after this week."