

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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KANSAS HEAT SCORCHES GRAZING LAND --

DOLE URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION ON EMERGENCY PLAN

WASHINGTON -- In the wake of almost daily 100 degree temperatures across the state, Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) today urged the Kansas state Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS) Committee in Manhattan to give "early and serious consideration" to requests by drought-affected counties for emergency grazing privileges on conservation use acreage.

"This special authority may not help producers in some parts of Kansas where the current heat wave has already burned up the cover crops," Dole stated. "However, some farmers may still be able to take advantage of the grazing program. It's vital that we respond to this blistering heatwave."

Regulations governing the emergency grazing authority were issued by the U.S. Agriculture Department on August 9 after several weeks of sustained hot, dry weather throughout the Midwest and Great Plains regions. Producers with acreage devoted to conservation use under the 1983 acreage reduction, paid diversion and PIK programs can apply to their county ASCS office for permission to graze their own livestock during the six-month non-grazing period.

Senator Dole indicated that 16 county requests had been received by the state ASCS Committee as of Tuesday, most from the northeast and eastern third of the state, and more are expected due to continuing drought conditions.

"Higher feed prices and the heatwave are encouraging livestock operators to reduce their herds. Anything we can do to reduce the impact on livestock prices during this critical period will benefit Kansas producers."