

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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DOLE ASKS FOR REVIEW OF SUMMER-FALLOW RULES;  
SENATOR WRITES AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BLOCK

WASHINGTON -- Concerned about prospects for low participation in the 1984 wheat program, Kansas Senator Bob Dole today asked Agriculture Secretary John Block to review eligibility requirements for summer-fallow producers.

Referring to the tighter summer-fallow requirements and the 30% acreage reduction program announced by USDA on August 9, Dole stated "I am concerned that the combination of this change with the higher acreage reduction requirement may set an economically impossible hurdle for farmers who regularly idle half of their land. Our basic goal of restraining 1984 wheat production would not be served if the impact is to exclude summer-fallow producers from participation."

The 1984 wheat program announced in August would require participating summer-fallow producers to divert the full 30% acreage reduction from land which they would have planted for harvest in 1984 and devote this acreage to approved conservation use. In previous years, producers have been permitted to raise non-program crops on the reduced portion of their regular wheat acreage, while applying conservation practices to part of their summer-fallow land.

In his letter to Block, Dole noted that "a majority of Senators and Congressmen in both parties have been prepared to approve a compromise on the target price issue which would substitute a paid diversion for part of the 30% acreage reduction requirement. As a result of the opposition of one Senator, however, we must now assume that the August 9 wheat program will not be modified before producer sign-up in January and February."

The Kansas Senator also pointed out that "currently industry expectations are for low participation in the 1984 wheat program, particularly in summer-fallow areas due to the revision in compliance requirements. I would appreciate your review of eligibility requirements for summer-fallow producers in the 1984 wheat program, including the degree to which the revised compliance measures will affect their participation and the resulting impact on anticipated wheat production next year."