

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE AND KASSEBAUM ANNOUNCE REMAINING DROUGHT COUNTIES RECEIVE DISASTER AREA DESIGNATION

WASHINGTON—Kansas Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum today announced that six counties in eastern Kansas have been designated disaster areas by the Department of Agriculture due to major crop losses caused by this summer's severe drought. The counties designated under today's announcement are Butler, Cowley, Crawford, Marion, Morris and Wilson. These counties had been part of the initial request for disaster area declaration of 41 counties formally filed on October 13. Approval of the other 35 counties was announced on November 10. Farmers with no alternative credit sources are eligible for FmHA loans at 5% interest on the first \$100,000 and 8% interest on the balance up to \$500,000 if their crop losses exceeded 30%. The regular FmHA lending rate is currently 13 3/4%.

"I commend Secretary Block and his team for following through on my request to complete their second review of these counties as soon as possible," Dole said. "Farmers throughout the eastern third of the state now will have equal access to low interest Farmers Home loans to help finance their 1984 crops."

"There may be farmers in counties in central Kansas who have also suffered serious crop damage due to the drought, and who should be eligible for disaster loans," Kassebaum added. "While we are still waiting to see whether other counties will be requested for disaster designation, farmers should check with local and state FmHA officials on the status of their county's damage assessment report."

"I have never been satisfied with the county designation process because it can miss individual producers in counties where losses are less than an arbitrary level. I am hopeful that state and local FmHA officials will be able to provide assistance for eligible farmers who may otherwise fall between the cracks in the designation process," said Dole.