

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SENATE AGREEMENT ON DROUGHT/DISASTER PACKAGE.
DOLE WINS TARGETED RELIEF FOR WINTER WHEAT & PROGRAM CROPS;
HOUSE BILL BAIL-OUT FOR 600 CROPS ALONG WITH ITS SKY HIGH COSTS
DRASTICALLY REDUCED -- 27 CENTS MORE PER BUSHEL FOR WHEAT
DOLE ALSO WINS "0/92" COVERAGE

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE ANNOUNCED LATE TODAY THAT WINTER WHEAT PRODUCERS AND OTHER PROGRAM CROP GROWERS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION UNDER A DISASTER ASSISTANCE PACKAGE THAT PASSED THE SENATE WEDNESDAY EVENING.

"THIS IS NOT THE BEST BILL, NOR IS IT THE KIND OF RELIEF WINTER WHEAT PRODUCERS AND OTHER PROGRAM CROPS DESERVE," DOLE SAID. "BUT IT IS FAR BETTER THAN THE BUDGET-BUSTING HOUSE BILL WHICH PROMISED FEDERAL RELIEF TO EVERY CROP IN AMERICA.

"IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT PARTISAN POLITICS HAS PREVENTED US FROM SENDING A FULL MEASURE OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS WHO NEED IT THE MOST.

"STILL, WE HAVE SECURED PRIORITY RELIEF AND HIGHER PAYMENTS FOR PROGRAM CROP PRODUCERS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN THE FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM -- THAT'S FAIR, AND THAT'S WHY WE HELD OUR GROUND IN THE FACE OF ALL THOSE WHO WANTED TO GIVE AWAY THE STORE TO ALL COMERS.

"I AM ALSO PLEASED THAT NON-PROGRAM CROP ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN DRAMATICALLY SCALED BACK ON THE ASSISTANCE FRONT, SO THAT NOW ONLY ABOUT 50 WILL QUALIFY UNDER THE SENATE BILL, INSTEAD OF THE MORE THAN 600 THE HOUSE BILL WANTED TO PROTECT."

ACCORDING TO DOLE, WINTER WHEAT PRODUCERS WILL GET APPROXIMATELY 27 CENTS MORE PER BUSHEL UNDER THE SENATE RELIEF PLAN, BASED ON A TYPICAL 1,000 ACRE OPERATION EXPERIENCING A 50% LOSS AND COVERED BY CROP INSURANCE. CORN GROWERS, MEANWHILE, WITH A 50% LOSS ON A 200 ACRE FARM ENROLLED IN THE INSURANCE PROGRAM, WILL GET ABOUT 19 CENTS MORE PER BUSHEL UNDER THE NEW SENATE PACKAGE.

ALSO IMPORTANT TO KANSAS FARMERS, ONLY THE SENATE BILL CONTAINS A DOLE PROVISION THAT GIVES DISASTER-WRACKED PRODUCERS THE OPTION OF RECEIVING DISASTER PAYMENTS IF THEY WERE FORCED INTO "0/92" BECAUSE OF FAILED ACRES. THIS PROVISION WILL MEAN SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF EXTRA BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUAL QUALIFYING PRODUCERS.

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