

News from Senator

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DOLE SALUTES KANSAS FARMERS - ALL-AMERICAN WORK ETHIC
"NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY"

AS THE SENIOR SENATOR FROM ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT FARM STATES, I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT TODAY IS "NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY".

IT IS A DAY WHEN ALL OF US CAN SAY "THANK YOU" TO THE AMERICAN FARMER AND HIS FAMILY; "THANK YOU" FOR ALL THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION; "THANK YOU" FOR THE SAFE AND UNENDING SUPPLY OF GOOD FOOD; AND "THANK YOU" FOR MAKING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE THE ENVY OF THE WORLD.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE SUCH BOUNTY.

KANSAS:
AN AGRICULTURAL GIANT

I AM ESPECIALLY PROUD OF OUR KANSAS FARMERS. MY HOME STATE HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS THE "WHEAT STATE", RANKING NUMBER ONE IN WHEAT PRODUCED AND WHEAT FLOUR MILLED. KANSAS FARMERS ALSO HOLD THE TOP SPOT IN SORGHUM SILAGE AND GRAIN PRODUCED, CATTLE PROCESSED, AND FLOUR MILLING CAPACITY. WE ARE NUMBER TWO IN ACRES OF PRIME FARMLAND AND TOTAL CROPLAND ACREAGE, AS WELL AS RED MEAT PRODUCED BY COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER PLANTS. THE ANNUAL VALUE OF KANSAS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IS MORE THAN \$6 BILLION IN CROPS AND LIVESTOCK.

KANSAS FARMERS HAVE DONE IT THE OLD FASHIONED WAY -- THEY'VE EARNED THEIR LOFTY STATUS WITH AN ALL-AMERICAN WORK ETHIC. WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH, KANSANS ARE TOUGHER.

THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS HAVE SINGLE-HANDEDLY MADE OUR STATE THE BREADBASKET OF THE WORLD. TODAY, I JOIN THE REST OF THE NATION IN HONORING AND EXTENDING OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHO TRULY ARE AMERICA'S PROVIDERS.

AGRICULTURE IN 1990:
ON THE RISE

1990 MARKS A NEW DECADE IN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE; AND IT WILL START WITH A NEW 5-YEAR FARM BILL. THE PAST DECADE HAS BEEN A ROLLER COASTER OF HIGHS AND LOWS FOR OUR FARMERS. WE CAN LEARN A LOT FROM THE PAST TEN YEARS AS WE MOVE ON TO THE 21ST CENTURY.

THE EARLY 1980'S WAS A TOUGH TIME FOR MANY PRODUCERS. SADDLED WITH DEBT AND RACKED WITH HIGH INTEREST RATES, THEY STRUGGLED TO MAINTAIN THEIR OPERATIONS.

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UNFORTUNATELY, A STRONG DOLLAR AND AN EVER-WIDENING AG TRADE DEFICIT BROUGHT LITTLE HOPE TO THOSE FARMERS WHO HOPED TO SEE SALVATION IN A VIGOROUS OVERSEAS MARKETPLACE. WHAT THE AMERICAN FARMER REALLY NEEDED WAS A FARM POLICY THAT PROVIDED INCOME PROTECTION ALONG WITH A GET-TOUGH POLICY IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

WE ACCOMPLISHED THOSE GOALS WITH THE 1985 FOOD SECURITY ACT. DURING THE LIFE OF THE 1985 BILL, NET FARM INCOME HAS RISEN 48% FROM \$32.4 BILLION TO \$48 BILLION. EXPORT MARKETS, WITH THE AID OF SUCH TRADE WEAPONS AS THE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, HAVE PRIED OPENED SOME CLOSED MARKETPLACES, INCREASING BOTH THE VOLUME AND VALUE OF FARM EXPORTS. SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF 'EEP' IN 1985, WE HAVE INVESTED \$2.7 BILLION IN 'EEP' AND AS A SRESULT SOLD NEARLY \$10 BILLION WORTH OF AMERICAN FARM PRODUCTS -- NOW THAT'S A GOOD RETURN ON OUR INVESTMENT.

EXPORT VOLUME HAS ENJOYED A ROBUST 76% INCREASE IN CORN EXPORTS AND A 40% INCREASE FOR WHEAT. THE GOOD NEWS IS, THE 1985 FARM BILL HAS PROVEN ITSELF TO BE BUDGET SENSITIVE: AS DESIGNED, GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS HAVE FALLEN FROM A HIGH OF \$25.8 BILLION TO \$10.5 BILLION IN 1989.

WHILE THE 1985 BILL MAY NOT BE A PERFECT PIECE OF LEGISLATION, IT DOES GIVE US A SOLID AND PROGRESSIVE BASE TO BUILD ON. THE 1985 ACT HAS BROUGHT DESPERATELY-NEEDED INCOME SECURITY AND GROWTH INTO A STRUGGLING AGRICULTURE ECONOMY, AND I'M SURE MANY FARMERS WOULD CALL IT A LIFE-SAVER.

DEDICATION FOR THE FUTURE

NEW CHALLENGES FACE THE AMERICAN FARMER THIS YEAR, CHALLENGES WHICH WE ARE MEETING HEAD ON. THE FARM COMMUNITY IS SERIOUS ABOUT ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN THE NEW FARM BILL, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH OTHER GROUPS WHO SHARE THAT SAME DEDICATION. WE ARE REVIEWING PROPOSALS TO OFFER THE FARMER INCREASED PLANTING FLEXIBILITY, AND TO ALLOW HIM GREATER DISCRETION IN MAKING PLANTING DECISIONS BASED ON THE MARKET CONDITIONS AND PRUDENT AGRONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS. THE SUPPORT FOR THESE POLICIES FROM FARM COUNTRY REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE THE AMERICAN FARMER PLACES ON THE CONTINUED PRESERVATION OF OUR COUNTRY'S MOST VALUABLE RESOURCES.

AS WE REFLECT ON THE ENORMOUS ACHIEVEMENTS AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES MADE BY THE AMERICAN FARMER, LET US REMEMBER HIS DEDICATION AND LOVE FOR THE LAND. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THE AMERICAN FARMER HAS BEEN A PIONEER IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP FOR AMERICA'S UNRIVALED RESOURCES.

WE CAN ALL TAKE PRIDE THAT OUR FARMERS AND RANCHERS ARE THE MOST PRODUCTIVE IN THE WORLD. I KNOW MY COLLEAGUES -- BOTH URBAN AND RURAL -- JOIN ME TODAY IN SALUTING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE.

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