

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 23, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

DOLE-BACKED 1990 FARM BILL "FIXES" PASS THE SENATE:
DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS MOVED UP, PLANTING FLEXIBILITY BOOSTED

WASHINGTON -- \$100 MILLION WORTH OF FEDERAL DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS COULD BE FLOWING TO KANSAS FARMERS SEVEN MONTHS EARLIER, BEGINNING IN DECEMBER, IF REFORM FARM LEGISLATION BACKED BY SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS), AND APPROVED BY THE FULL SENATE LATE FRIDAY BECOMES LAW.

ACCORDING TO SENATOR DOLE, THE SENATE PACKAGE FIXING PROBLEMS IN THE 1990 FARM BILL ALSO AUTHORIZES GREATER PLANTING FLEXIBILITY FOR PRODUCERS ON FEED GRAIN BASE ACREAGE. THE DOLE-BACKED REFORM MEASURES WERE INCLUDED IN A COMPREHENSIVE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL THAT WON UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY THE SENATE AS IT WORKED DURING THE WEEKEND TO COMPLETE ITS ACTION FOR THE YEAR.

"FARMERS HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS BATTLING MOTHER NATURE, THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BATTLE UNNECESSARY FEDERAL RED TAPE, TOO. I'M PLEASED WE'RE ON TRACK FOR FINALLY GETTING THESE IMPORTANT FARM BILL CORRECTIONS IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT BY EARLY NEXT WEEK," SAID DOLE, WHO HAS BEEN LEADING THE CHARGE IN THE SENATE FOR ADOPTION OF THE FARM LEGISLATION. EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROVED SIMILAR LEGISLATION. A JOINT HOUSE/SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WILL NOW BE WORKING OUT THE DIFFERENCES IN THE TWO BILLS DURING THE WEEKEND, ACCORDING TO DOLE.

DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

THE BILL INCLUDES A PROVISION PUSHED BY DOLE THAT WILL ALLOW WINTER WHEAT PRODUCERS TO RECEIVE THEIR FINAL DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS IN DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR RATHER THAN IN JULY, 1992.

THE PAYMENTS, HISTORICALLY PAID OUT IN DECEMBER, WERE MOVED TO JULY OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR AND CALCULATED DIFFERENTLY IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL BUDGET LAW. BUT DOLE AND OTHER FARM STATE LAWMAKERS PUSHED THROUGH THE PROVISION WHICH WILL BOOST FARMERS' CASH FLOW DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

FEED GRAIN FLEXIBILITY

ALSO ADOPTED WAS A PROVISION THAT RESTORES THE FLEXIBILITY FOR PRODUCERS TO INTERCHANGE PLANTINGS OF CORN AND GRAIN SORGHUM ON A FARM'S FEED GRAINS CROP ACREAGE BASE. BECAUSE OF A TECHNICAL DRAFTING ERROR IN THE 1990 FARM BILL, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PLANNED TO ADOPT SEPARATE BASES FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL FEED GRAIN NEXT YEAR, WHICH WOULD HAVE PREVENTED FARMERS FROM ROTATING BETWEEN CROPS FOR AGRONOMIC AND WEATHER-RELATED REASONS. THE CHANGE, WHICH DOLE INTRODUCED AS LEGISLATION IN JANUARY, RESTORES THE LAW ESTABLISHED BY THE 1985 FARM BILL.

"ACCORDING TO USDA PROJECTIONS, THE CHANGE IN WHEAT DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS WILL PUT AN EXTRA \$100 MILLION IN FARMERS POCKETS IN DECEMBER RATHER THAN IN JULY," DOLE CONTINUED. "AND THE FEED GRAINS BASE FIX GETS THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BUREAUCRATS OUT OF A FARMER'S BUSINESS, PUTTING THE DECISION MAKING BACK IN THE HANDS OF THE ONES WHO SHOULD BE MAKING THEM -- THE FARMER."

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