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TO AP, UPI THROUGH BEE

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 13 -- Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today saluted the Grange, the nation's oldest farm and rural organization.

The farm group, with 199 Kansas Granges including ones in Larned, Moscow, Deerfield and Liberal, is celebrating its 100th anniversary in Syracuse, N.Y.

"The record clearly shows," said Dole, "that the development of the Grange since 1867 has paralleled the remarkable achievements of American agriculture."

The Congressman pointed out the Grange has been particularly important in maintenance and promotion of the family structure.

"In these days of the fractured family," he said, "the century-old teachings of the Grange have taken on added urgency: The family is the most important unit. The family farm is the most efficient and healthy rural economic foundation."

"I feel confident," he added, "the Grange's second century will reflect the same vision and determination in rural affairs which has characterized the group's first 100 years."