

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
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U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today praised the resourcefulness of the American farmer and warned that American agriculture cannot be taken for granted.

Commenting on the corn blight threatening up to 50% of the nation's corn crop, Dole said, "In America, the average citizen can afford to be unconcerned that severe shortages of basic products may occur...he does not need to race his neighbors to the nearest grocery store to stockpile staples to guard against an impending emergency--but only because adequate food and fiber reserves protect us all."

"These reserves are made possible through our agriculture programs--the price support and acreage control system made available to farmers over the past 37 years."

"This unfortunate corn blight emphasizes the need for adequate reserves. If we ignore the lessons of history...if we let supply outstrip demand...then we will plunge ourselves back into a serious oversupply situation. That is why three million farmers still need government farm programs to gear output to meet demand--to maintain a reserve to meet just this type of emergency, yet avoid price depressing surpluses."

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