



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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Several weeks of intensive study and investigation by Senator Bob Dole into the fuel shortage that threatened the Kansas farmers has paid off this week with visible results. Almost one million gallons of fuel -- both diesel and gas -- has been located by the special team sent to Manhattan by Senator Dole, with a promise of more to come. The location of this fuel by the special team working in conjunction with Frank Mosier of the State ASCS office has helped to assure a successful wheat harvest.

In addition to helping alleviate the immediate problem of the fuel shortage, Senator Dole is also working to help find long-term solutions to the fuel supply problems and has been in touch with Governor John Love earlier this week. Love has today been appointed Presidential Advisor on Energy Problems.

On April 22 Senator Dole called for Senate hearings on the possible fuel crisis in view of the potential shortages in supplies of various fuels used for farming purposes.

On May 22 Senator Dole then sent a letter to Kansas farmers advising them of the ASCS role in fuel allocation system. Dole's staff established close liaison with State ASCS, USDA and Washington Office of Oil and Gas to handle cases of reported fuel shortages.

In several areas Dole has worked to help distributors locate fuel to see the local farmers through the harvest. For example, the Decker Oil Company in Topeka went out of business leaving approximately 45 farm customers in the Meriden area (450 in entire region) without a supplier.

By early June these 45 farmers were down to the last of their supplies of gasoline and were facing the prospect of shutting down their tractors.

Dole's staff efforts located 8,000 gallons of gasoline which were delivered to the Meriden farmers on June 18.

In Fort Scott, mid-June found the Lyons Oil Company unable to provide gasoline to several hundred farm customers plus eleven service stations in the areas. Reserve supplies were growing critically short. Dole efforts located 20,000 gallons of gasoline to see Lyons Oil Company's customers through the last two weeks of June.

On June 12, Senator Dole testified before the U.S. Office of Oil and Gas Oil Policy Committee, and before the Senate Agriculture Research Subcommittee on the impact of the present fuel crisis on agriculture. He stated that the voluntary allocation program has been unsuccessful. "The farmers of America cannot burn voluntary guidelines and suggested priorities in their tractors. They must have fuel -- gasoline, diesel, oil and LP gas -- and they must have it at the right time." Therefore, the time has come -- while it is still not too late -- to establish a strong, mandatory and effective fuel allocation program."

Frank Mosier, State Director of ASCS, and Bob Bohannon, Director of the Cooperative Extension Service at Kansas State, were both in Washington at the request of Senator Dole on June 12 to testify before the Senate Subcommittee on

Agricultural Research. Both reemphasize Dole's assertion that a mandatory fuel allocation system was needed, as soon as possible.

On June 22 Dole sent a telegram to Mr. Duke R. Ligon, Chairman of the Oil Policy Committee of the Office of Oil and Gas, urgently requesting that a special representative from the Office of Oil and Gas be sent to Kansas to supervise and assure the allocation of crude oil and refined products to meet the priority needs of farmers.

On June 25 Dole announced that starting June 26 a special team was being sent to Manhattan to work with Frank Mosier of the State ASCS to evaluate the situation and obtain fuel for the wheat farmers for their harvest. Jerry Newcomb of the Office of Oil and Gas, and William Taggart of the Senate Agriculture Committee staff were sent to Manhattan at Dole's request.

On June 26, 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel were located in Potwin.

On June 27, Dole announced that an additional 300,000 gallons of available fuel for Kansas farmers had been located. One major oil company contacted Dole's office directly to indicate that it could make 300,000 gallons a month available to Kansas farmers in addition to its regular Kansas allotment. 200,000 would be gasoline; 100,000 would be diesel.

On June 28 Dole announced that additional reports from the Special Fuel Location Team indicated that besides the over 400,000 gallons of fuel which the team located on Tuesday and Wednesday, an additional 400,000 gallons of fuel available per month to meet Kansas harvest requirements had been located that morning. This brought the total to almost one million gallons.