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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE ANNOUNCES FUEL HEARINGS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole announced today that hearings he requested of fuel allocations for farmers will be held by the Senate Agriculture Committee on March 25 and 26.

"Farmers still cannot get the fuel they need," the Senator stated, "and the amount of fuel farmers require will get even greater as we get closer to planting and harvest seasons. The time to get the fuel allocation program lined out is now, not later."

The hearings will be held by the Subcommittee on Agricultural Production, Marketing, and Stabilization of Prices. Federal Energy Administrator, William Simon, has been invited to appear.

At the hearings, Dole plans to discuss measures being taken to insure adequate fuel during the planting and harvest seasons. In telegrams to Energy Administrator William Simon and Acting Regional Energy Office Director, James Newman, the Senator urged that a regional set aside of harvest fuel be established which could be channeled rapidly by the Regional Federal Energy Office into areas having fuel shortages during harvest. Senator Dole stated that he is continuing to assist Kansans contacting him with fuel problems. He explained that he would contact the State Emergency Allocation Office for an increased supply of fuel and would follow up with the Regional Office for a permanent allocation expansion. He urged Kansans to call his Kansas City Office at (913) 342-4525 for assistance.

Dole also announced that he would reveal at the hearings the results of a study on increased fuel needs for agriculture in Kansas. Additional acreage, new irrigation, greater use of diesel tractors and declining numbers of fuel outlets are trends putting increasing strains on normal fuel supplies for agriculture.