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# **NEWS** from **U.S. Senator Bob Dole**

(R.—Kans.) **New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521**  
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## DOLE SAYS COUNTY AG OFFICE CONSOLIDATION PLANS SLOWED

CLAY CENTER, KANSAS --The proposed consolidation of county agricultural offices in Kansas has been delayed, Senator Bob Dole announced today.

Dole voiced objections several months ago to aspects of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's plan to consolidate under one roof, county offices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the Farmers Home Administration, and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, if it meant that offices in any Kansas county would be closed.

Dole said he objected to the "real possibility that under the existing USDA plan, agricultural service offices in some counties would be closed down altogether. There is nothing wrong with consolidation itself," he added, "but it is no help to the farmer if consolidation forces him to drive 75 miles or more, into the next county, to get the information and service he needs from government agents."

Initially, USDA had set June 3rd as the deadline for the development of a state plan for consolidation. Dole has now been informed that the deadline has been lifted to allow more time to take local needs and preferences into account. Dole also indicated that before any final action is taken, he plans to review the USDA plan to ensure that service to all farmers is maintained in an efficient and convenient manner.