



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

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CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON

DOLE URGES REVISION OF 1974 WHEAT ESTIMATE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--In a letter today to Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz, Senator Bob Dole strongly urged "that the latest official estimate of the 1974 wheat crop be reviewed and changed to reflect the actual condition of the crop."

Dole said predictions by the United States Department of Agriculture and others are overly optimistic and are causing financial hardships for Kansas farmers. "I have received complaints from wheat producers throughout the State advising me that the 1974 wheat crop is nowhere near government expectations," Dole wrote Butz. "These farmers say this year's wheat crop in the nation's number one wheat-producing state will be 16 to 26 percent less than the official estimate. The difference in estimates appears to stem from the lack of local observation, too much reliance on statistical methods of projection and possibly inadequate technical expertise in the official evaluation."

Dole said the "result of this overly optimistic report is to depress the market. The unnecessary fluctuation in the market will cause many producers to receive lower prices for their grain than they might had the report been more accurate. The overly optimistic estimate could be avoided by a more thorough examination of the crop on a local level."