



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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## DOLE URGES ACTION ON SLUMPING GRAIN MARKET

HAYS, KANSAS--Senator Bob Dole told a gathering in Hays today that he will request a meeting next week with the President and the Secretary of Agriculture to discuss government actions to improve the market for farm commodities.

"The prices for wheat and feedgrains have been on a continuous downward slide for the past several months," Dole said, "and it is getting to the point where farmers are facing severe financial losses. The government needs to take whatever action it can to boost the farm market."

Dole, the ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, said the following recommendations would be presented to the President:

- Remove the existing export restrictions which are discouraging some foreign buyers and take steps to insure that no further export restrictions will be imposed.
- Speed up the booking of Food for Peace shipments to foreign countries. About \$1 billion worth of purchases remain to be made for FY 76. Use of these funds has been slowed due to foreign policy considerations.
- Expedite the allocation of short term (3-year) credit for farm commodity export financing under the Commodity Credit Corporation Export Credit Sales Program. About \$500 million remain to be allocated to foreign countries under this program to buy U.S. grain in FY 76.
- Intensify promotional activities overseas for farm export sales. The Department of Agriculture has indicated to Senator Dole that in the months of September and October this year, foreign buyers bought 8 to 9 million metric tons of grain from competitors of the U.S. that they might have otherwise bought from American farmers. Canada, Australia, Argentina, and Brazil have been willing to sell to prices lower than the U.S. market, making competition especially stiff.
- Redouble efforts at MTN (Geneva) due to 9½% increase in EEC tariff.

"Our transportation system has done a good job this year, outside of some local difficulties," Dole said. "We have the grain ready to export, but other countries are undercutting us due to the lack of our export sales promotions." The Senator indicated that the East European countries should be needing large amounts of grain this year and next because of crop disaster in the Soviet Union.