



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 7, 1976

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DOLE URGES FARM ACTION

Washington, D. C. -- Senator Bob Dole today urged the President to back up his pledge to help farmers with several specific actions to show his genuine support for the farm and rural community and to bolster the grain market. Dole requested a meeting with the President and the Secretary of Agriculture to discuss the proposals in detail.

"The downward slide in wheat, corn, milo and soybean prices must be reversed to avert widespread economic losses in the farming industry," Dole said. "The price of wheat at country elevators in Kansas recently fell below \$3.00 per bushel which is 14 percent below the cost of production for many farmers."

In his letter to the President requesting a meeting, the Senator listed seven specific actions intended to bolster the market as follows:

1. Increase the amount of grain that may be sold to the Soviet Union this year without further negotiations.
2. Accelerate the use of \$855 million remaining for the Food for Peace Program.
3. Expedite the allocation of \$400 million of credit remaining in the USDA Export Credit Financing Program.
4. Intensify promotional activities overseas.
5. Increase Department of Agriculture input into the formulation of government export policy by elevating USDA's position in policy-making groups.
6. Take steps to avoid future imposition of export restrictions, such as giving Administration support for legislation introduced by Dole to allow foreign countries complying with certain conditions to buy and store grain here with a complete exemption from any future export controls.
7. Intensify efforts to reduce farm trade barriers in Europe and other countries.

In a follow-up letter to Secretary Butz, Dole said the President's pledge to keep farm income high will hopefully be encouraging to farmers but that specific action is needed to show the President's genuine support.