

BOB DOLE



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JOHN BLOCK NEW SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON -- "The Senate's unanimous confirmation today of John Block as Secretary of Agriculture sends an immediate signal to the American farmer that Congress and the Administration are dedicated to restoring profitability to agriculture," Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said today.

Dole, who personally recommended Block to then President-elect Reagan at a Washington meeting on December 11, 1980, added, "John Block is energetic, resourceful, and brings the knowledge of a working farmer to the job. He knows the problems facing farmers because he has faced them himself."

Block, 45, owns and operates the family hog and soybean farm near Galesburg, Illinois.

"In the recent Agriculture Committee hearings, John Block made it very clear that he not only fully understands the problems crippling the agricultural community, but that he intends to seek ways to improve the agricultural economy through such means as expanding agricultural exports," stated Dole, senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

"During his years as Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, John Block was involved in numerous efforts to expand farm exports. He also gained administrative experience that will serve him well in his new job," said Dole.

Dole added, "Most importantly, John Block's confirmation offers farm families in Kansas and elsewhere something they have had precious little of the past four years -- hope."