

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ADVISES BLOCK TO DEFER FARM PROGRAM DECISION

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today asked Secretary of Agriculture John Block to delay making a final decision on the sign-up deadline for 1984 farm programs, citing the possibility that agriculture may be included in negotiations on a deficit-reduction package.

"I don't want the Secretary to tell farmers there won't be any changes today, and then have to backtrack next week if we can work something out," said Senator Dole. "Those of us willing to work on the deficit downpayment proposed by President Reagan in his State of the Union address want to have everything on the table -- defense, taxes, and spending programs. If there is some way to save a little over three years and also improve participation in this year's wheat program, I'm open to ideas."

The Kansas Senator had met with Block in his Capitol Hill office earlier in the week to discuss the outlook for participation in the current program, including revisions in summer-fallow requirements and an extended sign-up deadline. The current deadline is February 24 for all 1984 farm programs.