

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1984

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## DOLE AND KASSEBAUM ANNOUNCE DISASTER AID FOR REMAINING FIVE COUNTIES

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum today announced that five disaster-stricken Kansas counties which had their initial disaster requests put on hold on January 25 have now been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to receive low-interest disaster loans.

"I am pleased the USDA has agreed with us that these counties are fully deserving of disaster aid," Dole said. "This past summer's brutal heat, the early September freeze and damaging hail storms have played havoc with Kansas crops. Now farmers in these five counties will be able to finance operating expenses at well below commercial rates."

Farmers in the eligible counties who suffered at least a 30% crop loss due to the drought will be able to receive loans at 5% interest on the first \$100,000 and 8% on the balance up to \$500,000, if unable to find credit elsewhere. The regular FmHA interest rate is currently 13-3/4%.

The counties approved for low-interest disaster loans in today's announcement include Harvey, Osborne, Stafford, Trego, and Wichita.

On January 25, USDA approved similar loans for ten Kansas counties and at that time Senators Dole and Kassebaum asked for a review of the remaining counties, which led to today's announcement.