

BOB DOLE



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17 KANSAS COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR USDA DISASTER LOANS

Washington, DC -- Farmers who suffered damage as a result of hail and high winds last August in 17 Kansas counties may be eligible for low-cost disaster loans from the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), according to Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum and Rep. Bob Whittaker.

"The USDA reviewed assessment reports from six counties which bore the brunt of the storms," said Sen. Dole, "and concluded that there was indeed a genuine need for this type of assistance."

Rep. Whittaker said the six counties include Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Coffey, Lyon and Woodson in southeastern Kansas. He said farmers in 11 adjoining counties - Chase, Crawford, Franklin, Greenwood, Linn, Miami, Morris, Neosho, Osage, Wabaunsee and Wilson - will also be eligible for the loans.

According to Sen. Kassebaum, farmers who can show at least a 30-percent crop loss but cannot obtain credit elsewhere could borrow up to \$500,000 each. The FmHA charges five-percent interest on the first \$100,000 borrowed and eight-percent interest on additional amounts, she said.

The Kansas representatives said an estimated \$21 million in damages were reported. More than 3,500 farm sustained damages in the August 1 storm.