

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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## SPENDING BILL ADVANCES WHEAT DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS, PROVIDES AID FOR KANSAS FARMERS HIT BY FLOODS, HAIL

Washington, DC -- The federal government's omnibus spending bill, due to pass the Senate tonight, contains provisions sponsored by Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) to aid Kansas farmers.

The provisions would advance wheat deficiency payments and would give Kansas farmers hit by this month's flooding and by an earlier summer hail storm disaster aid in the form of negotiable payment-in-kind (PIK) certificates to compensate for damages.

"Frankly, the spending bill was a convenient vehicle to get some action on these proposals," said Sen. Dole. "Neither of these provisions will cost the government any more money. They're simply common sense ideas that will give a little more help to Kansas farmers."

Dole said the wheat payment provision would give farmers 60-cents per bushel this year by moving up the balance of their deficiency payments from the end of the marketing year - July, 1987 - to December, 1986.

Dole said the disaster aid provision would give farmers up to \$100,000 each in negotiable PIK certificates. He said more than 3,600 Kansas farmers were affected by the summer hail storm and earlier this month by major flooding in the southeastern region of the state, causing more than \$21 million in damages.

The legislation also provides the same relief for farmers in Michigan who were also flooded last month and for farmers in the southeastern U.S. who were struck by the spring and summer drought. Damages from those natural disasters have been estimated at more than \$2 billion.