

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE REQUESTS EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR WHEAT PRODUCERS AFFECTED BY NEW GRADING STANDARDS

Washington, D.C. -- Senators Bob Dole (R-KS) and David Karnes (R-NE) today asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to correct a situation in which new wheat grading standards are resulting in discounts of up to \$1 per bushel for wheat producers and elevator operators.

"On May 1, the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) implemented new grading standards for wheat under which any lot containing 32 or more insect-damaged kernels per 100 grams would be graded as 'sample grade.' Wheat producers and elevator operators in Kansas and other states indicate that this action is resulting in discounts of up to \$1 per bushel," said Dole in a letter to USDA co-signed by Karnes.

"It appears that USDA is going to ensure that elevators with contracts entered into prior to May 1 will be protected. As a result, producers who chose to store their crops on the farm will be seriously disadvantaged if their wheat is downgraded, compared to producers who chose storage in local elevators," said Dole.

"We are asking that farmers with on-farm storage receive equitable treatment. USDA should either treat 'sample grade' wheat at forfeiture the same as it was treated when placed under loan or it should provide the same compensation to producers that it has to warehousemen with Uniform Grain Storage Agreements," added Dole.

"These proposals would allow the entire inventory of insect damaged wheat in both commercial and on-farm storage to be marketed into non-human consumption without penalizing either producers or warehouseman," concluded Dole and Karnes.

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