

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 1990

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

DOLE URGES SECRETARY YEUTTER TO FIND SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO UTILIZE "EEP" AGGRESSIVELY IN COMBATTING LOW WHEAT PRICES

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Ks) today urged Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter to review options which the Department of Agriculture may use to "utilize the EEP (Export Enhancement Program) to the fullest extent possible." The EEP is a major export initiative used to combat unfair trading practices by the European Community, and has been used extensively over the past five years to assist the movement of U.S. wheat into the world market.

Dole contacted Yeutter after the conference committee on appropriations reduced the EEP funding level from \$500 million annually to \$425 million. Dole went on to point out that "\$425 million may not be sufficient if the program is used aggressively during the current fiscal year."

"With this year's abundant winter wheat harvest and our current lackluster foreign sales depressing domestic prices, I believe that it is highly important for our farmers that we do not seriously undermine programs that have proven their ability to move our wheat into the world market," said Dole.

Wheat prices in Kansas dropped precipitously after this year's record wheat harvest, and have shown little response as foreign demand has remained limited.

"It is my intent that the Department is able to utilize the EEP to the fullest extent possible, and continue the Program's proven effectiveness of the past five years in expanding markets for the American wheat farmer," said Dole.

###