

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

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**DOLE WELCOMES PRESIDENT BUSH'S AG DISASTER ASSISTANCE;
DOLE WINTER WHEAT FUND IS RELEASED:
"NO WAITING THIS YEAR".**

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today hailed President Bush's decision to release \$755 million in federal disaster assistance for America's farmers, including \$100 million for winter wheat producers. Senator Dole established the special \$100 million reserve fund for winter wheat last November so that Kansas producers would not have to wait on other crops before getting much-needed disaster assistance.

"When Kansas farmers were dusting in their 1992 crop last year in the midst of a serious drought, I wanted to make sure that they wouldn't be left hanging -- waiting for losses in the corn belt to get Washington's attention," said Dole. "That's why it was so critical to get the funds in place before the disaster for a change -- this year, there will be no waiting."

In a supplemental appropriations package that was signed into law late last year, congress approved the Dole amendment that would specifically cover losses experienced in 1990 and 1991. Out of an additional \$755 million that was authorized to be made available this year, Senator Dole set aside \$100 million specifically for the 1992 winter wheat crop.

According to Dole, the Administration plans to institute a two-phase signup period in which winter wheat farmers will be able to file for disaster benefits immediately. A second signup period would then be made available to producers of fall crops such as corn and soybeans once those crops are harvested later in the Fall.

"I've kept in close contact with President Bush and the Administration ever since the late May freeze and other inclement weather began taking its toll on the Kansas crop, and I applaud his leadership in making this assistance available in a timely manner."

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