



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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DOLE BILL WOULD SAVE FARMERS \$5.3 MILLION, ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY RECORD KEEPING

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole today introduced a bill that would save Kansas farmers more than \$.5 million and farmers across the country approximately \$5.3 million by funding supervision of grain inspection in the same manner many similar supervisory programs are funded. The bill to amend the Grain Inspection Act would relieve farmers and grain elevators of the direct fees for supervision being proposed by the Federal Grain Inspection Service. The bill would also require grain elevators to keep only those records necessary in the operation of their business.

"The bill corrects two of the problems which surfaced when the FGIS recently announced that they would assess state and private grain inspection agencies 80¢ per thousand bushels as a supervisory fee," Dole said. The user fee is currently required by law and Dole's proposed change would remove that fee. Farmers and grain companies would continue to pay for the original inspection of grain. Under the Dole bill, funding for federal supervision would come from Congressional appropriations as does funding for supervision of inspection of other commodities, including poultry, eggs, fruits and vegetables, livestock inspection and grading, tobacco and cotton.

Dole said the present record keeping requirement, which is due to be implemented in the next 18 months, was unreasonable because it would require local country elevators to keep expensive and unnecessary records concerning treating, drying, blending and handling of grain within an elevator. Dole's proposal would require the Administrator of FGIS to determine the records needed in the operation of different sizes and types of elevators, and to determine a uniform record requirement that would satisfy the needs of FGIS, CCC, ASC and the Federal Warehouse Act. This would eliminate the need for elevators to keep different sets of records for different USDA agencies.

In addition, the bill would require the Administrator of FGIS to set up a seven-member Advisory Committee to advise him on the effect regulations would have on various segments of the grain industry -- from farmer to consumer -- before the regulations are published in the next 18 months. Dole said this would allow "thorough examination of the regulations and help avoid any disruption in the normal and timely marketing of grain. Such an advisory committee was helpful in the recent implementation of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission." The policy under which the Advisory Committee would work charges them with assuring the timely and orderly marketing of grain and avoidance of disruption, which would ultimately cost the farmer money in lower grain prices.

Thursday and Friday a Subcommittee of the Senate Agriculture Committee will, at Senator Dole's request, conduct hearings on these and other possible problems stemming from the Grain Inspection Act.

*Sal Madge
Young
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