

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SUPPORTS INCREASED WHEAT SALES TO RUSSIA

Washington, D.C.....Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan) says he strongly supports the announcement by the Secretary of Agriculture to allow the Soviet Union to purchase up to 10 million metric tons of wheat in the next 14 months.

"I wrote the Secretary on July 13 urging him to take immediate action to increase the limit on Soviet grain purchases. I'm pleased the Secretary acted now and did not wait until October as was reported he might do. The American farmer needs increased markets for his wheat," Dole said.

"The U.S. has large carry over stocks of wheat and with a 300 million bushel increase in 1979 production over last year the U.S. has adequate supplies to take advantage of increased world demand for wheat.

"I have some concern about the Secretary announcing a zero acreage set-aside for the 1980 wheat crop. I hope this is not a signal for the farmer to plant fence-row to fence-row. We could find ourselves quickly in a huge surplus situation with low wheat prices.

"I believe it is essential to maintain our land conservation practices and not bring marginal land into wheat production. The Secretary only raised the wheat loan-rate a minimal amount, from \$2.35 to \$2.50. Legislative changes are probably needed to raise the loan rate and the target price for the 1980 crop. Now that the program guidelines have been announced I will look at the implications of the new guidelines and will introduce legislation to improve the program if it is needed," Dole stated.