

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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### DOLE INTRODUCES MAJOR FARM LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) has introduced major farm legislation setting minimum loan rates for wheat, corn and soybeans; establishing limits for grain in the farmer-held reserve; and continuing set-aside and target price programs. The Dole bill was introduced in the Senate yesterday.

The bill can be broken down into these categories:

#### WHEAT

A minimum price support loan of \$3.50 per bushel for 1982-85 crops. The secretary of agriculture would have discretion for any increases in the rate. Target prices would continue, to determine the amount of deficiency payments when market prices average below the target in the first five months of a marketing year. Also, target calculations would be made on a cost-per-acre, rather than a cost-per-bushel, basis to eliminate yield variability year to year.

#### CORN (feed grains)

A minimum price support loan of \$2.55 per bushel. Targets would be continued, as in the wheat program.

#### SET-ASIDE AUTHORITY

A set-aside would be continued in order to give the secretary of agriculture an additional tool to reduce production when supplies are abundant. Is amended to use the previous year or years acreage as a base for reductions in wheat or corn seeding to eliminate the possibility of increased plantings using the Normal Crop Acreage base, which is eliminated.

#### GRAIN RESERVE

A maximum of no less than 700 million bushels of wheat, 1 billion bushels of corn. Supplemental loans to encourage participation at the discretion of the secretary. Storage is paid. Interest charges at up to cost to government at the secretary's discretion. The release price is the current target price, at which storage payments cease. At 115 percent of the release, interest is increased to the full commercial rate.

#### SOYBEANS

A loan rate minimum continued at \$5.02 per bushel. Participation in set-aside, reserve, and target price program is prohibited.

"The purpose of the wheat, feed grains and grain reserve portions of my bill are aimed at achieving several things," Dole said. "The bill will provide minimum levels of support to grain producers, continue the farmer-held reserve as a market-oriented tool during periods of low prices, and ensure a continued government role in maintaining grain production and stocks at levels acceptable to both farmers and U.S. domestic and export needs."

Dole said that additional amendments will be proposed to current programs for rice, peanuts, dairy and other crops, as well as other areas of general farm legislation during the next few weeks as the Agriculture Committee considers specific provisions of the 1981 farm bill.