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CAN EXPECT FARM BILL IN OCTOBER, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- "Differences remaining between the farm legislation favored by the Administration and the proposal approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee can be resolved in time for a new farm bill to become effective in October," Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today.

"If the Administration is willing to make some compromises in their overall approach to price supports for several key commodities -- notably wheat, feed grains, dairy and sugar -- we should be able to meet the budgetary limits agreed to by Congress last March," he added.

Dole's comments came after an hour-long meeting with William Leshner, assistant secretary for economics at the Department of Agriculture. The session was the second between Dole and top USDA officials regarding the farm bill since the Senate Agriculture Committee completed work on the legislation in May.

"We hope to iron out these final differences before Congress reconvenes after the August recess, after which there won't be much time for reviewing the entire bill," Dole said. "The adjustments needed are relatively small, and we don't want to start the whole process over again if Congress passes a bill that the President is forced to veto due to cost overruns."