

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE SAYS WHEAT PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT IS IMMINENT

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said this afternoon that an announcement of details of the 1984 wheat program by the Department of Agriculture was "imminent."

"Secretary Block intends to announce the incentives and participation requirements for wheat producers either tonight or over the weekend using two assumptions -- that the target price is allowed to increase as scheduled in the farm bill or that Congress agrees to freeze targets at 1983 levels," said Dole.

"In both cases, farmers will have a clear idea of how the program will be operated once Congress ends its stalemate over the freeze issue next week," said Dole, the ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Dole's remarks followed a meeting with Block in his Capitol Hill office at which the general provisions of the wheat program were discussed. Announcement of program details was to have been made by July 1, but has been delayed due to Congressional wrangling over the proposed freeze on target prices. The deadline for announcement now is August 15.

"Members of the Senate opposed to the freeze have held up action for weeks," said Dole. "They have also held up the planting decisions of Kansas farmers who just want to know what the program for next year is going to be. I just hope that the announcement of the two alternatives -- with or without the freeze -- will allow wheat producers to go ahead with their seedbed preparations."