

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE BLAMES SENATORS FOR BLOCKING FARM LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today expressed disappointment that Democratic Senators prevented consideration of much-needed changes in the 1984 wheat program, an action which may cost wheat farmers hundreds of millions of dollars in net returns.

Dole said that "it was particularly unfortunate that the Senate was not allowed to choose between two alternatives -- one of them clearly better for wheat producers."

Dole's comments came as the Senate prepared to adjourn for the August recess after a ten day impasse over farm legislation, including the Administration's proposal to freeze target prices. The logjam means that the 1984 wheat program, which must be announced by August 15, will include the target price of \$4.45 scheduled in the farm bill. It will also include provisions announced by Agriculture Secretary Block on July 29: a 30% acreage reduction program and a 10-20% PIK program with a 75% payment rate.

"The compromise program that we wanted to offer could have pumped an estimated \$823 million in additional net farm returns into the wheat economy in the 1984 crop year," Dole continued. "It would also have locked in other discretionary program provisions favored by wheat farmers and earmarked \$300 million in credits for an export revolving fund."

"I am pleased that the National Association of Wheat Growers, the Kansas State Wheat Growers and other producer groups became involved in the effort to work out a satisfactory package," Dole added. "I am hopeful that we can find some way to take another look at the wheat program in September without disrupting farmers' planting decisions."

The proposed compromise would have allowed target prices to increase to the scheduled 1984 levels by 1985 in two equal installments. For wheat, the 1984 rate would have been \$4.38, rising to \$4.45 in 1985. The acreage reduction requirement was 25%, with a 10-25% PIK program at a payment rate of 82 1/2%. The bill would also have mandated advance deficiency payments and grazing privileges in 1984 and preserved the existing level of storage payments for the Farmer-Owned Reserve. These provisions are normally subject to the discretion of the Secretary.