

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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\*\* CHICAGO DROUGHT SUMMIT MEETING \*\*

### DOLE CALLS FOR OVERHAUL OF DROUGHT RELIEF REGULATIONS -

### INTRODUCES 4-POINT PROGRAM TO EXPEDITE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.

CHICAGO -- Looking to cut through red tape, Kansas Senator Bob Dole today called for the adoption of a 4-point drought relief program that will expedite Federal assistance to states that have had their crops devastated by the summer's heat wave.

Dole, the senior Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, introduced the 4-point plan during the Administration's national drought summit at Chicago's Sheraton O'Hare Airport Hotel.

"There's no question about the significant losses farmers have suffered because of the unrelenting heat wave," Dole said. "It's vital that we do all we can to move quickly to satisfy the legitimate needs of our drought-stricken producers."

"However, it is equally important that we don't just throw money at the problem. We need to design an assistance package that cuts through red tape and targets those who merit Federal assistance," Dole said.

### DOLE'S 4-POINT DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAM

#### 1. Complete State Declaration:

The current 30% countywide disaster designation procedures should be dropped in favor of complete state declaration. Crop damage is so widespread that there is no reason to go through the red tape of filing and approving county damage assessment reports. Once a state is approved, individual farmers would still need to demonstrate at least 30% total crop loss to be eligible for low-interest loans.

#### 2. Immediate State Consideration:

If there is clear evidence of serious crop losses, states which apply for disaster declarations should be immediately considered and, if appropriate, approved. Individual farmers will still not be able to file until after harvest, but advance preparations can be made both in-state and in Washington once the state application is accepted.

#### 3. Unrestricted Haying and Grazing.

Unrestricted haying and grazing privileges should be granted on all conservation use acreage under the 1983 acreage reduction and PIK programs. There should be no restriction on the sale of hay and the limitation to livestock owned by the producer under the emergency grazing program announced in August should be lifted.

With the serious shortage of livestock feed and fodder, there is no reason for restricting haying and grazing on conservation use acres.



# BOB DOLE



#### 4. Federal Crop Insurance Review:

USDA should initiate a review of the effectiveness of the Federal crop insurance program. The drought will be the first major test of the crop insurance legislation passed in 1980, and I understand that participation is still at or below 25% of eligible acres on a national basis. This means that the vast majority of farmers are not covered. It also means that the program is on a very thin actuarial base, and could be vulnerable to significant losses.

"Because of this drought summit we have gained a better appreciation of what can be done, what must be done, and what the states may have to do themselves. Farmers deserve to hear a realistic appraisal of what can be done to help, and not an auction of empty promises," Dole concluded.

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the Senator Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, introduced the 4-point plan during the Administration's national drought summit at Chicago's Sheraton Grand Albert Hotel.

"There's no question about the significant losses farmers have suffered because of the devastating heat wave," Dole said. "It's vital that we do all we can to make certain to satisfy the immediate needs of our drought-stricken producers."

"However, it's equally important that we don't just throw money at the problem. We need to design an assistance package that cuts through red tape and targets those who merit Federal assistance," Dole said.

#### DOLE'S 4-POINT DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAM

##### 1. Complete State Designation

The current 107 county-by-county disaster designation procedures should be dropped in favor of complete state designation. Crop damage is so widespread that there is no reason to go through the red tape of listing and approving county damage assessment reports. Once a state is approved, individual farmers would still need to demonstrate at least 50% total crop loss to be eligible for low-interest loans.

##### 2. Immediate State Compensation

If there is clear evidence of serious crop losses, states which apply for disaster designations should be immediately considered and, if appropriate, approved. Individual farmers will still not be able to file until after harvest, but advance preharvest aid can be made both in-state and in Washington once the state application is accepted.

##### 3. Unrestricted Lending and Grazing Privileges

Unrestricted lending and grazing privileges should be granted on all conservation use acreage under the 1981 emergency reduction and 61% program. There should be no restriction on the sale of any and the limitation on livestock owned by the producer under the emergency grazing program announced in August should be lifted.

With the serious shortage of livestock feed and fodder, there is no reason for restricting lending and grazing on conservation use acreage.