

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE, BLOCK DISCUSS IMPROVEMENTS TO FARM CREDIT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said today that he met with Agriculture Secretary John Block and Undersecretary of Agriculture Frank Naylor this afternoon to get a progress report on the Administration's Debt Adjustment Program (DAP). Dole suggested several improvements to the DAP, President Reagan's program to assist farmers experiencing short-term credit problems.

"I told Secretary Block that it was important to get the Production Credit Association members involved in the program," said Dole. "To make sure a farmer can hang on, we need to have the PCA's and Federal Land Bank loans adjusted along with the commercial bank loans."

"I proposed that the Administration consider liberalizing DAP's approved lender program," said Dole, the senior Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee. "And, I believe County Committees should loosen-up on their definitions of what is or is not a 'family farm.'"

"Kansas bankers are being told that there are unlimited guarantees available out of the Farmers Home Administration's Operating Loan accounts in Kansas, but not out of the Farm Ownership Accounts. Given the fact that these farmers need to restructure their debt portfolio across-the-board, it may inhibit the use of the program to disallow any farm ownership loan to be included," said Dole.

"In addition, I suggested more flexibility in valuing farm equipment and farm land for collateral purposes, as well as liberalized terms for banks in determining cash-flow projections," said Dole.