

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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### DOLE CO-SPONSORS KANSAS FARM BUREAU FARM BILL

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, senior Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, today announced he is co-sponsoring the Kansas Farm Bureau's 1985 farm bill. The proposal was introduced in the Senate April 16 by Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.)

Dole added that he has met recently with a number of other general farm and commodity organizations which have alternative proposals for new farm legislation. In addition, the Kansas Republican made clear that he is reserving the option to introduce his own farm plan once the debate on new legislation begins.

"The Farm Bureau plan is a good beginning -- a sound and sensible package. With minor exceptions, it strikes a balance between the need to adapt farm programs to meet global competition and the need to provide a reasonable level of protection for farm income during a transition period. This effort is particularly important in view of the current depressed conditions in the U.S. agricultural economy," Dole said.

In the Farm Bureau proposal, target prices would provide supplemental income for wheat and feed grain farmers while loan rates, set at 75 percent of the simple average domestic price, would help move excessive grain supplies into world markets.

Under this plan, target price adjustments would not be adjusted by more than 5 percent annually.

"U.S. agriculture has no greater need today than to regain its competitiveness in world markets. Our farm exports have fallen in three of the last four years, and the forecast is for further declines in sales and foreign market share if the situation does not turn around. Whatever else we do in the 1985 debate on agriculture policy, we simply must find a way to get exports moving again," Dole said.

Dole noted that the Farm Bureau farm bill, as introduced Thursday, approaches the spending targets for agriculture programs detailed in the comprehensive deficit reduction package worked out by the White House and the Senate Republican leadership.

One area where Dole indicated the proposed farm package needs further adjustment is the degree to which price supports would prevent U.S. products from competing with those of our competitors for foreign markets. The Farm Bureau plan would adjust the loan rates for export-dependent crops to 75 percent of average market prices, with no annual adjustment exceeding 10 percent of the previous year's loan. Under this plan, the wheat loan rate could be adjusted from the 1985 level of \$3.30 per bushel to about \$2.97 per bushel in 1986 and \$2.67 per bushel in 1987.