

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1985

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,  
BRENT BAHLER 202/224-6521

## DOLE SEEKS FARM BILL ADVICE, SUPPORT FROM KANSAS AG LEADERS

WASHINGTON -- In his continuing effort to shape new farm legislation, Kansas Senator Bob Dole said he was pleased with the input he received this week from agriculture interests during his July 4th trip to Kansas.

Dole, senior Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, met for more than two hours on Wednesday with leaders from Kansas farm organizations. The meeting, hosted by Dole, took place in Manhattan.

"Kansas farmers have two key objectives in the 1985 farm bill," Dole said. "They want to maintain income during the current difficult times in the farm economy, and they want to regain a competitive edge in world markets. I intend to press for legislation that meets both these goals, and to get the details of the 1986 wheat program hammered out before Congress adjourns at the end of this month."

Attending the Dole meeting were representatives from the Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Pork Producers Council, Kansas Grain and Feed Dealers, Kansas Cooperative Council, American Agriculture Movement, National Farm Organization, National Farmers Union, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, Kansas Soybean Producers, Kansas Association of Milk Producers, Kansas Fertilizer and Chemical Association, Kansas Soybean Commission, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, and the Kansas Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service.

According to Dole, most of those at the Manhattan session demonstrated "great flexibility and realism" in discussing the various farm bill proposals now before the Senate Agriculture Committee. "We talked about a number of old and new concepts, including the so-called marketing loan, and also considered the possibility of targeting income support to average-sized farmers," Dole said. "The consensus is that we need a program that will support income while enabling U.S. farm exports to compete in world trade. Exactly how the program is structured is less critical."

Dole indicated that he will remain in close contact with Kansas farm leaders as the Senate Agriculture Committee resumes markup of the new farm bill.

"I am hopeful that we can get some agreement before the 1986 winter wheat crop is planted this fall," Dole stated. "Unfortunately, the rule has been that farm legislation is rarely completed until Congress adjourns -- sometimes not before late December."