

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FEDERAL CROP AID FACES IMMINENT CUT-OFF

DOLE CALLS ON HOUSE TO MOVE ON STALLED APPROPRIATIONS BILL

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture will run out of funds tomorrow to continue vital farm credit programs unless the House takes action on a stalled appropriations bill. Kansas Senator Bob Dole today urged House Appropriations Committee members to act on a substitute bill that would provide emergency funding for the threatened farm programs.

Farmers face an immediate shutdown of vital federal funding affecting commodity loans, crop insurance, and a host of other government agriculture programs. In mid-June the Senate passed the fiscal 1985 supplemental funding bill covering USDA operations and other federal programs. But the measure ran into problems on the House side.

"Farmers have enough problems already without an interruption in vital federal funding," Dole said. "The House should do all it can to make sure funding doesn't lapse for the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Otherwise my Kansas farmers will be in a real bind. They're facing a cut-off of loans on this year's wheat crop, just as the bills are coming due."

Dole urged the House Appropriations Committee to pass a substitute bill out of committee so that funding for the endangered federal farm programs will continue.

According to the USDA, \$3.9 billion is currently tied up in the pending supplemental appropriations bill. Agencies forced to close immediately would include the Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service, meaning that Kansas wheat farmers will not be able to take out 1986 crop loans. Also facing shutdowns are the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and possibly the Farmers Home Administration.