

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE CALLS FOR EMERGENCY ACTION BY HOUSE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today urged the House Appropriations Committee to act to restore funds for vital farm credit programs following yesterday's cut-off of USDA funding authority.

Farmers today ran into a 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 has run 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 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.

"I've received assurances from the chairman of the Appropriations Committee that he will produce a bill to restore the funds within the next 24 hours," Dole said.

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 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.