

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE VOTE WINS SUPPORT FOR HAYING AND GRAZING

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) today cast a tie-breaking vote to preserve haying and grazing privileges for Kansas farmers in the 1985 farm bill.

The 9-8 vote was on an amendment to allow haying and grazing in 1986 and provide for grazing in subsequent years at state option. The amendment derailed a pending motion by Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) to prohibit all haying and grazing on set-aside acres.

"Retaining haying and grazing privileges is especially important to winter wheat farmers in Kansas who often do not receive the next year's program details in time to make planting decisions in the fall," Dole said. Today's vote will mean added income for many farmers and will boost the farm economy in our state."

Haying privileges allow farmers to harvest hay on acres diverted from wheat production under acreage reduction programs. Grazing allows farmers to graze cattle on set-aside acres except during the five principal growing months.

In subsequent action the Senate ag panel approved a wheat program announcement deadline of July 1, with adjustments permitted up to July 31. The Committee also voted to preserve the summer fallow practices for participation in the wheat program which is important to many western Kansas farmers.