

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE MEETS WITH OMB DIRECTOR AND AG GROUPS ON NEW FARM BILL

WASHINGTON -- With debate on the 1985 farm bill scheduled for the next five days in the Senate, Kansas Senator Bob Dole kicked off a key week for agriculture with a series of top-level meetings with ag and budget leaders.

Meeting separately with the Kansas Republican were representatives of the National Association of Wheat Growers, the National Corn Growers Association and executives of the Farm Credit System. Dole also met with the President's budget director, Jim Miller, in a continuing effort to get the Administration on board a new farm package.

"Some members have loaded-up the farm bill in a purely political effort to force the President to veto the package," Dole said. "That's not going to help anyone, particularly the farmer. The differences right now are not nearly as important as getting a new farm bill signed into law. In my view, farm state Senators should be working to find a consensus that will do the job."

After the morning sessions with the ag groups, Dole met with Office of Management and Budget Director Jim Miller to reemphasize the importance of passing a farm bill.

"I told both the farm groups and OMB Director Miller that we want the President to sign a farm bill, not veto one. Some farm state Senators understand budget constraints, and some of us have pushed hard to make significant savings in farm programs. But the Administration has got to be willing to bend, too, and recognize that part of the increased cost of agricultural programs is due to continuing distress in the farm economy," Dole added.