

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE AMENDMENT OFFERS PROTECTION FOR KANSAS BEET FARMERS

WASHINGTON -- Kansas sugar beet farmers who lost millions of dollars in the bankruptcy of a processing plant in western Kansas could soon be eligible to recover their losses thanks to an amendment authored by Senator Bob Dole (R-Ks.).

The amendment was accepted by the Senate late Friday and attached to the 1985 farm bill now under debate on the Senate floor. The passage of the Dole amendment would help American sugarbeet farmers get back the value of their produce if their crop is caught up in the bankruptcy of a processing plant. Kansas beet farmers lost approximately \$12 million last March when the Great Western sugar processing plant became insolvent.

Dole is still pushing the Senate to pass the new farm package and is determined to have a final vote sometime this weekend.

"Sugar is a unique crop in that it can't be placed under loan in its perishable form. As a result, processors must enter into marketing agreements with producers to become eligible to take out Commodity Credit Corporation loans," Dole said. "There is no reason why farmers, through no fault of their own, can't receive payments for their crops even though nothing goes to market. If the processing plant goes broke and has the crops at that time, the farmer ends up an innocent victim. This amendment corrects that."

In 1984, 7,800 acres in Kansas were planted in sugar beets. No acres were planted in 1985, presumably because of the closure last March 7 of the Great Western sugar processing plant in Goodland. The Dole amendment would mean sugar beet farmers in Kansas would receive payments for their 1984 crops.