

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, December 16, 1985

CONTACT: BRENT BAHLER
(202) 224-6521

DOLE DELIVERS IN CONFERENCE:
\$12 MILLION KANSAS SUGARBEET RELIEF INCLUDED IN FARM BILL

WASHINGTON -- Kansas sugarbeet farmers will soon be eligible to recover a total of \$12 million in crops lost in bankruptcy proceedings thanks to an amendment by Kansas Senator Bob Dole, who successfully tacked the relief measure on to the 1985 farm bill.

The action came during the weekend conclusion of the marathon House/Senate conference on a new omnibus farm package, which won unanimous approval from the bipartisan panel. The \$12 million is targeted to Kansas sugar beet farmers who were caught in the middle of the Great Western sugar processing plant bankruptcy earlier this year in Goodland.

Last month, during Senate debate on the farm bill, Dole co-sponsored an amendment to provide federal aid to sugarbeet producers who lose income when local processing plants go out of business while holding the farmers' product.

"For more than nine months, Kansas sugarbeet farmers have been left in a void, without compensation and without much hope for recovery. Through no fault of their own, they weren't paid for a crop they invested in, planted and harvested. The new farm bill corrects that, and will prevent it from happening in the future," said Dole.

Dole went to bat for the Kansas sugarbeet farmers and was successful in getting the legislation to include a retroactive clause. He convinced House-Senate conferees last weekend to keep the amended legislation for the final version of the new farm bill, expected to be approved by Congress this week and signed into law by the President.

Dole said the state's sugarbeet farmers are virtually assured of receiving payments for their crops, which were still in the possession of Great Western when the Kansas processing plant was declared insolvent on March 7, 1985.

In 1984, more than 7,000 acres in Kansas were planted by beet farmers. None were planted this year, largely because of the Great Western sugar processing plant's closure in Goodland.