

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE: NEW LAW TO HELP KEEP FARMERS IN BUSINESS

Washington, DC -- Legislation signed into law today by President Reagan will aid thousands of farmers hit by major floods last year and enable many to continue farming next year, according to U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-KS).

"The President's signature on this legislation is the final necessary step to making complete Congress' commitment, made last year, to helping farmers hit by major flooding," said Sen. Dole. "It should help many farmers pay off some debt, and to keep farming for another year."

The wheat disaster legislation signed by the President contains a "0-92" provision for the 1987 wheat crop, which provides farmers with 92-percent of their expected deficiency payments without requiring them to have planted a crop.

"Before adjournment last year," explained Sen. Dole, "we thought we had the problem taken care of with the Mattingly amendment. A technical error though didn't account for winter wheat farmers who had to plant in 1986 and harvest in 1987. That's the situation hundreds of farmers - farming over a million acres - in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri found themselves in."

The legislation signed by the President also includes a provision to add \$135 million to the \$400 million disaster payment program to ensure farmers receive payments equal to the maximum qualified losses for which they are eligible.