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WHEAT PRODUCERS COME UP 21 CENTS PER BUSHEL SHORT UNDER DEMOCRAT
DROUGHT PLAN -- DOLE CALLS FOR FAIRNESS AS NEW FIGURES SHOW
SOYBEANS AND CORN ALSO TAKING BIG HITS ON THE ASSISTANCE FRONT.

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE CONTINUED HIS FIGHT FOR EQUITABLE DROUGHT ASSISTANCE TODAY, AS HE MADE PUBLIC NEW FIGURES SHOWING WHEAT, CORN AND SOYBEAN PRODUCERS LOSING UP TO 41 CENTS PER BUSHEL UNDER THE DEMOCRATIC PLAN ENDORSED BY THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE BY A 10-9 PARTY LINE VOTE.

"THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF MISLEADING RHETORIC AND DISTORTED REPORTING ABOUT DROUGHT LEGISLATION, BUT THESE NUMBERS SHOULD PUT THE DEBATE IN FOCUS. IF PRODUCERS WANT TO DONATE DESPERATELY-NEEDED DROUGHT ASSISTANCE TO BAIL-OUT HUNDREDS OF NON-PROGRAM CROPS, THEN THEY SHOULD SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATS' PLAN," DOLE SAID. "SOMEHOW, I DON'T BELIEVE THEY WILL."

A TABLE COMPARING THE LUGAR/DOLE REPUBLICAN DROUGHT PACKAGE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PLAN IS ATTACHED: IT SHOWS THAT SOYBEAN PRODUCERS WITH A 50% LOSS ON A 200 ACRE FARM LOSE 41 CENTS PER BUSHEL UNDER THE DEMOCRATS' PLAN; WHEAT FARMERS WITH A 50% LOSS ON A 1,000 ACRE FARM LOSE 21 CENTS; AND CORN GROWERS WITH A 50% LOSS ON A 200 ACRE OPERATION FORFEIT 18 CENTS.

"IT HAS TO BE A TOUGH SELL IN WHEAT, CORN AND SOYBEAN COUNTRY. THE PRESSURE HAS TO BE BUILDING THE MORE THESE PRODUCERS FIND OUT HOW THE DEMOCRATIC PLAN HAS SHORTCHANGED THEM," DOLE SAID.

"I HAVEN'T ALTERED MY POSITION SINCE DAY ONE -- I STILL BELIEVE COMMON SENSE CAN PREVAIL IF DEMOCRATS SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY. SO FAR, THERE HASN'T BEEN MUCH BIPARTISANSHIP BUT I AM ENCOURAGED THAT SOME DEMOCRATS HAVE CONTACTED ME DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS. THEY SEEM TO BE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES," DOLE ADDED.