

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

DOLE GOES TO BAT FOR "ZERO 92" PRODUCERS
COVERAGE EXPECTED UNDER NEW DROUGHT RELIEF BILL

WASHINGTON - Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) said today he expects the final 1989 Senate disaster assistance bill to cover many Kansas farmers forced into the "zero-92" program because of drought conditions.

"Many farmers have been concerned they might not qualify for disaster benefits if they are considered in '0-92' due to failed acres. Fixing this problem will be worth thousands of dollars to individual producers who should not be penalized because of the drought. I am confident we should be able to address this concern in the Senate bill and I've personally raised this issue with the Agriculture Department as well.

"It is only fair to give wheat producers this option since they did not know whether we would have a disaster bill at the time they had to make a decision to participate in 0-92, or to wait for possible disaster payments," Dole said.

Many Kansas producers who planted wheat, had failed acres due to drought, and could not grow a second crop due to lack of moisture, were allowed to sign up their failed acres as 0-92, which allows them a small payment if they do not plant any additional crops. Normally, failed acres qualify producers for deficiency payments. However, due to higher market prices, there may be little, if any deficiency payments this year.

Many producers with failed acres were considered as "0-92". However, this option did not allow producers to plant a subsequent crop and did not ensure that they would have the option to receive disaster payments if Congress passes a disaster bill.

The provision was contained in an earlier introduced disaster bill sponsored by Senator Dole and Kassebaum.

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