

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE, KASSEBAUM MEET WITH YEUTTER ON DROUGHT; DESPITE RAIN,
KANSAS WHEAT "BEYOND REPAIR" -- SEND HELP SENATORS SAY

WASHINGTON -- KANSAS SENATORS BOB DOLE AND NANCY KASSEBAUM CONTINUED TO PUSH FOR DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FOR WHEAT AND LIVESTOCK FARMERS TODAY AS THEY MET FOR AN HOUR WITH SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE CLAYTON YEUTTER.

"WE DISCUSSED THE CURRENT 30 DAY AND 90 DAY WEATHER FORECASTS AND CROP CONDITIONS AND UNDERScoreD OUR CONCERNS THAT DESPITE RECENT RAINFALLS AND IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR OTHER CROPS IN OTHER FARM STATES, WINTER WHEAT IS STILL A DISASTER," DOLE SAID. "THE LOSS FOR THE WINTER WHEAT CROP IS WELL DOCUMENTED. IT'S A CONVINCING CASE FOR HELP THIS YEAR."

DURING THE DROUGHT MEETING IN SENATOR DOLE'S CAPITOL OFFICE, WHICH INCLUDED DETAILED REVIEW OF WEATHER MAPS, SECRETARY YEUTTER SAID THAT "NORMAL RAINFALL" WAS EXPECTED IN THE NEXT 30 TO 90 DAYS IN MOST OF THE FARM BELT AREAS, BUT ADMITTED THAT "THE REAL PROBLEM IS GRASS AND WHEAT".

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK ASSISTANCE AND KEEP THE PRESSURE ON IN THE SENATE TO GET THE JOB DONE," SENATOR KASSEBAUM SAID.

DOLE ALSO ASKED THE SECRETARY TO MAKE A QUICK DECISION ON OPENING UP THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) TO ALLOW HAYING AND GRAZING ON CRP ACRES ON A COUNTY BY COUNTY BASIS. "TIMELY ACTION IS NEEDED TO MAXIMIZE BENEFITS FROM HAYING AND GRAZING CRP ACRES AND ASSIST LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS STRUGGLING TO FIND ADEQUATE FORAGE AND PASTURE," SAID DOLE.