

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ASKS SECRETARY TO GUARANTEE ADVANCE PAYMENTS;
ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES \$900 MILLION IN UPFRONT DEFICIENCY
PAYMENTS; ESTABLISHES RURAL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE.

WASHINGTON -- Following a satellite interview session between President Bush, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, and selected farm broadcasters, Senator Bob Dole (R-Ks) applauded the Administration's announcements today to provide an additional \$900 million in deficiency payments to farmers upfront and to establish an inter-agency rural development task force.

"During this past Friday's drought tour in Kansas with Secretary Yeutter, it was obvious that many farmers would face a significant financial loss from the effects of the drought," Dole said. "I urged Secretary Yeutter to formally announce the 10% increase in advance deficiency payments, from the earlier announced 40% level to the maximum 50% permitted under law. This will put an additional \$55 million into the Kansas economy. It will provide some help to farmers who have cash flow problems or who may need to plant another crop under the 'failed acre' provisions if sufficient rain comes later in the year.

"I am urging the Secretary to go one step further and guarantee that producers will not be subject to refunding the advance payment later in the year if market prices determine that the projected rate was too high. I would also urge the Secretary to act quickly on the suggestion made by Governor Hayden and others to allow haying and grazing during the five principle growing months," Dole said.

Regarding the announcement of the rural development task force, Dole noted that an intra-agency task force would be useful in coordinating an overall approach to the needs of rural America. "We need to bring together the various administrative experts and streamline our efforts in addressing rural issues such as providing adequate health care, attracting small businesses, and maintaining schools and transportation facilities. This will be a necessary step in ensuring that a non-duplicative network of services exists for our rural communities."