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DOLE HELPS EASTERN KANSAS FARMERS GET RELIEF
FROM BURDENSOME ASCS REGULATIONS

DOLE: "GOOD NEWS FOR FARMERS AND A VICTORY FOR COMMON-SENSE."

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE (ASCS) COMMITTEE AGREES WITH HIM AND WILL RELIEVE FARMERS - STATE-WIDE - OF THE BURDENSOME AND IMPRACTICAL "50% COVER CROP REQUIREMENT" MANDATED BY THE 1990 FARM BILL.

"ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISTS IN WASHINGTON SCREAMED FOR THIS PROVISION, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN DROWNED OUT BY FARM COUNTRY COMMONSENSE. FARMERS ARE THE BEST CONSERVATIONISTS; THEY LIVE ON THE LAND, THEY DON'T JUST TALK ABOUT IT. THIS RED TAPE WOULD HAVE COST FARMERS MORE TILLAGE, MORE WATER AND MORE TIME, AND WOULD HAVE WORKED AGAINST THEIR OWN ONGOING CONSERVATION PLANS," DOLE SAID.

THE INITIAL ASCS INTERPRETATION OF THE PROVISION EXEMPTED ONLY THE WESTERN TWO-THIRDS OF THE STATE, A RULING DOLE THOUGHT WAS IMPRACTICAL. SENATOR DOLE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY PURSUING A STATEWIDE EXEMPTION FOR ALL KANSAS FARMERS, AND TODAY THEY GOT IT.

"THIS IS GOOD NEWS FOR FARMERS AND CONSERVATIONISTS ALIKE," SAID DOLE. "FARMERS ARE GETTING BLITZED BY NEW MANDATES, A LOT OF WHICH JUST DON'T MAKE SENSE WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE DOING THE FARMING."

THE PROVISION REQUIRED PRODUCERS TO PLANT AN ANNUAL COVER CROP ON 50% OF THEIR SET-ASIDE ACREAGE. PREVENTED BY LAW FROM GETTING BACK INTO THEIR COVER CROPS UNTIL AUGUST 1, FARMERS WOULD HAVE HAD AN EXTREMELY LIMITED WINDOW TO FIRST NURSE THEIR COVER CROPS, AND THEN TO TEAR IT UP TO GET THEIR LAND READY FOR FALL WHEAT PLANTING.

DURING THE WRITING OF THE 1990 FARM BILL, DOLE PLAYED A PRIMARY ROLE IN INCLUDING EXEMPTORY LANGUAGE FOR SEMI-ARID AND SUMMER-FALLOW AREAS.

"FARMERS HAVE BEEN HEARD ON THIS ONE -- THEIR INPUT HAS MADE THE DIFFERENCE."

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