

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 26, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
(202) 224-5358

KANSAS FARMERS WIN DISASTER ASSISTANCE:  
DOLE HELPS SECURE '90 & '91 COVERAGE, PLUS SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR  
1992 WINTER WHEAT DISASTER

WASHINGTON - Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) announced today that Kansas farmers have won substantial federal disaster assistance on Capitol Hill, including special coverage for 1992 winter wheat losses.

According to Senator Dole, farmers who qualify for federal disaster assistance will now be covered for 1990 or 1991 crop losses, as a joint House and Senate conference committee agreed to provide \$1.75 billion for agricultural disaster relief, earmarking \$995 million for 1990 or 1991 crop losses.

Meanwhile, winter wheat farmers facing potential crop disaster in 1992 will now be backed by a special \$100 million federal disaster relief fund proposed by Senator Bob Dole, which was approved by the full senate and adopted tuesday by the conference committee.

Dole said an additional \$755 million may be made available next year if the President announces an emergency disaster declaration, of which \$100 million will be set aside specifically to cover 1992 winter wheat crop losses.

"Fall crops got hammered throughout most of Kansas this year, and it looks as if we'll have quite a few producers needing assistance, and those producers will be able to share in the \$995 million we were able to nail down for 1990 and 1991 losses," said Dole.

"Meanwhile, our wheat farmers will head into 1992 with confidence, knowing that if winter wheat is in trouble, federal assistance will already be there.

"Kansas producers were left hanging in 1989, as Congress stalled winter wheat assistance while it waited to see if other farm states experienced disasters of their own. I don't want to see the same thing happening again next year."

Budgetary Restraints

Dole pointed out that although benefits will be calculated using loss thresholds and payment rates similar to past disaster legislation, those benefits will be prorated on a national basis because the funds appropriated are less than the total amount for which all producers will be eligible.

"No doubt about it, a lot of people would have liked to have seen a more generous package," Dole continued, who helped broker the final compromise in order to avert the possibility of a presidential veto if the bill had violated the provisions of last year's budget agreement. "I've seen the severe conditions throughout the state this year, and hope that this assistance will at least provide relief to those who were hardest hit."

###