

NEWS RELEASE - CALLED TO
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August 22, 1966--For immediate release--

Congressman Bob Dole stated today that the House Committee on Agriculture will hold hearings on bills introduced by him, and the Chairman of the Committee, Harold Cooley, to modernize the Federal Seed Act, which regulates the labeling of seed in interstate commerce. The hearings will be before the full Committee on Agriculture Tuesday and Wednesday, August 23 and 24.

"This Act, regulating the seed industry in the United States," Dole said, "has not been adjusted to changing needs since 1956. Certain sections of the law need updating. High quality seed is the basis for a successful agriculture."

The bill would provide for clarification in labeling varieties of agricultural seed, labeling of treated seed to be imported, labeling seed as a hybrid, testing pure live seed on a random basis, exempting imported seed from the pure live seed and staining requirements, and longer storage time prior to interstate shipment before retesting. As to the longer storage time, Dole said that research has shown certain new packaging materials will preserve the viability of seed for a longer period.

A Another provision would require lawn and turf seeds to be labeled as fine-textured kinds or coarse kinds to assist the purchasers in making choices of seed for lawns.

The bill is supported by the American Seed Trade Association, State seed and agriculture officials, and the USDA, Dole concluded.