

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 29 -- Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today introduced legislation limiting questions which farmers are required to answer on agricultural censuses.

In a statement in the House, Dole said, "Not only are some of the questions so involved and complicated requiring outside professional help, some are actually invasive."

Dole's bill would prohibit questions of production, acreage, operation and finances of farms in the agricultural census.

Noting current law requires a farm census every five years, Dole said the proposed survey for 1969 demands precise figures on the amount of irrigating water, fertilizer and other production methods and crop yields. In addition, he said the census would require the farmer to disclose how much money he owes, how he finances his work and an equipment inventory.

"No farmer," Dole said, "wants to publish how much grain he is storing while waiting for a good market price. Such information would put him at a disadvantage to the speculator and others."

Pointing out the bill will not restrict appropriate government access to the information, Dole said, "The Department of Agriculture already secures identical information through very extensive surveys and reports."

"Why does the Census Bureau want information which is already compiled from agencies which actually serve the farmer?", the Kansas Congressman asked.

"There must be a ceiling on how far the government is allowed to pry into the personal lives of any American citizen," Dole added.