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# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

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CONTACT:  
Morgan Williams

## U.S. SENATE PASSES DOLE FLEXIBLE PARITY FARM BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.....The United States Senate last week passed the Dole Flexible Parity Farm Bill. The Dole bill was included in the emergency farm legislation passed by the Senate by a vote of 67 to 26.

The Dole Flexible Parity Bill provides for a system of graduated established (target) prices for the 1978 crops of wheat and feed grains and upland cotton, based on the amount of acreage a farmer voluntarily sets aside from production.

Senator Dole said, "I am appreciative of the tremendous support I have received from farmers all over the country for the flexible parity plan. Under the flexible parity plan, farmers will have, for the first time, a mechanism under which they can collectively control their production and each individual may select the target level and set-aside that is best for his farm operation."

The Senate and House Conferees on the emergency farm legislation held its organizational meeting last Wednesday and decided to hold their next meeting at 9:00AM, Monday, April 3, 1978, the day Congress reconvenes after the Easter Recess.

Senator Dole said, "I was disappointed the Conference was unable to meet during the Recess. I was prepared to cancel all my engagements in order to work out an acceptable compromise on this extremely urgent emergency farm bill. Congressman Sebelius of Kansas, also a member of the Conference Committee, and I had hoped we could meet during the Recess in order to have a Conference Report ready for action by the House and Senate when the Congress reconvenes on April 3."

"I will do everything I can to try to achieve agreement by the Conference when it meets again. We cannot wait any longer. Kansas farmers need to make their plans for planting now. We need to get a bill to the President before it is too late and the crops are in the ground," the Kansas Senator said.

Secretary of Agriculture, Bob Bergland, attended the organizational meeting, but said, in a response to a question by Dole, that he was unable at this time to give the Administration's position on the emergency farm legislation, but stated he would announce some plans in the near future to deal with the farm problem.

Senator Dole said, "It appears that the Administration is finally yielding to pressure from striking farmers, the Congress and the American public. I am pleased that the Administration finally appears to be ready to take steps to ease the crisis situation that currently exists for American agriculture." Dole, the ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee further stated, "They have had the authority all along to make many improvements and I hope the plan to be announced this week will be far reaching enough to provide real relief for farmers. If not, House and Senate Conferees will begin meeting again April 3, and I will continue to press for adoption of flexible parity."

Senate members of the Conference are, in addition to Senator Dole: Herman Talmadge, James Eastland, George McGovern, James Allen, Walter Huddleston, Milton Young and Carl Curtis.