

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1982

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NEW ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED --

DOLE URGES FARMERS TO SIGN-UP

WASHINGTON -- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) today urged grain farmers across the country to participate in the acreage reduction program for the 1983 wheat crop as announced this afternoon by Agriculture Secretary John Block.

"I am very pleased that the acreage reduction program announcement was right on time this year. That wasn't the case last year, when delay on the provisions of the 1981 Farm Bill prevented the Secretary from finalizing reduction program guidelines," Dole said. "However, today's on-schedule announcement will prevent a similar delay from confusing farmers about how much wheat to plant."

Under the program this year, farmers who agree to participate in 20 percent acreage reduction will be eligible for a \$4.30 per bushel target price, a 25-cent increase over last year's price. Additionally, farmers who sign-up for the program will be able to receive -- up front in October -- one half of the projected deficiency payment for the 1983 harvest. The payment, which officials say could be 50 cents per bushel, is an interest free payment and will help in financing credit-strapped producers.

"With another near record harvest in the works, there's no doubt the acreage reduction program is absolutely essential this year -- farmers simply should not continue to overproduce. This program is on time, makes good sense and represents a fair way to maintain a proper balance between production costs and wheat prices," Dole continued. "Also, the early deficiency payments will ease pre-production cash flow problems for grain producers. I expect that vigorous participation in the reduction program will help boost wheat prices by reducing our huge grain stocks and placing limits on another giant harvest."