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Office of Congressman Bob Dole  
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DOLE INTRODUCES BILL TO EXTEND CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) has introduced legislation which would amend and extend the Conservation Reserve Program, a land retirement plan under which 28.7 million acres of cropland have been taken out of production in recent years.

"The program was terminated in 1960," Dole said, "and the government's land retirement agreements with farmers begin expiring in considerable volume this year, although some contracts will run through 1969. Most of this acreage will be returned to crop production if the Conservation Reserve Program is not extended.

"The bill I have introduced would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture, during the five-year period 1962-66, to extend present contracts, other than contracts for the establishment of tree cover, for from three to ten years beyond present termination dates. The bill also provides for a review by the Secretary of the rate of annual payments.

"Kansas has 12,637 farms in the Conservation Reserve Program, with 1,446,586 acres under contract. Annual payments to participating Kansas farmers totaled \$17,220,382 during 1960 for an average payment of \$11.90 per acre. Unless the program is extended, some 80,000 Kansas acres will come out of the cropland reserve in 1962, an additional 334,000 acres in 1963 and, by the end of 1969, all present contracts would be terminated.

"Most of this land is presently in grass and legume cover. Virtually all of it will probably go back into crops, and with a much higher production potential, unless action is taken now to extend the Conservation Reserve Program.

"Farmers and local communities have already made the adjustments involved in the retirement of the acreage now in the CRP. It would be nothing short of ridiculous to encourage the return of these acres to crop production at a time when the Administration has under consideration a new, massive, costly land retirement program reported to involve as much as 68 million acres," Dole concluded.