

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SAYS KANSAS FARMERS HELPED BY SODBUSTER CHANGE

Washington, DC -- Kansas farmers who have legitimate alfalfa rotations would be able to participate in the 1987 farm program without being unduly burdened by sodbuster provisions under a compromise agreed to today in the Senate, according to Senator Bob Dole (R-KS)

"It's fair to say that there is considerable confusion among many farmers who feel threatened by the sodbuster provisions denying them government payments for following approved conservation practices," said Sen. Dole. "There are many farmers in Kansas and other states who need to switch from alfalfa to a program crop as part of an established rotation practice."

The sodbuster provisions incorporated into the 1985 Farm Bill prohibit USDA program benefits to any person who produces an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without the use of conservation practices. Presently, according to Sen. Dole, "If a farmer wants to plant a price-supported crop as part of his normal crop rotation practice on land that's been planted to alfalfa, he faces denial of government benefits, even though such rotations can be an approved conservation practice."

Said Sen. Dole, "The compromise would allow producers who have planted alfalfa during each of the 1981-1985 crop years as part of an approved rotation, and who have submitted a plan to their local offices, to have a one year phase-in period to meet the plan's requirements or until June 1, 1988."