

FROM THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE (R-KAN.)
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today urged that "Congress delay action on any extension of the present feed grains program until wheat producers vote, probably late in May, on the Administration's wheat program.

"Secretary of Agriculture, Orville L. Freeman, has not yet announced the date of the wheat referendum, but unofficial reports are that it will be held late in May, notwithstanding my request for an earlier referendum," Dole stated.

"Farmers of Kansas and other Great Plains states, who grow both wheat and feed grains, are entitled to know what kind of a wheat program they will have for 1964 before a new feed grain plan is enacted," Dole stated.

"Many farmers will want substantial changes in the present feed grain program, if the wheat plan is voted down, and others will want changes if the wheat plan is approved. It appears to me growers in the commercial wheat area could lose much of the 'bargaining power' they now have in Congress if feed grain legislation is adopted prior to the wheat referendum. If the referendum should fail after feed grain legislation is enacted, the wheat farmers of America would be standing alone, and I am convinced many of the pressures behind present efforts to push feed grain legislation through Congress stem from Secretary Freeman's unbending desire to deny wheat producers freedom of choice in the so-called referendum, coupled with his desire to abandon the program just passed by Administration forces last year which would have resulted in 80¢ corn in feed grain areas."

Dole said yesterday's action by the Feed Grains Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee in approving on a party line basis the Administration-backed Feed Grains Bill was as expected, but it "makes it more imperative than ever that farmers make known their wish to have consideration of any such measure delayed until they know what kind of a wheat program they will operate under in 1964.

"With cattle prices some \$5.00 per hundred lower than they were a year ago and hog prices down about \$3.00 per hundred, farmers are beginning to feel the effects of the indiscriminate dumping of government corn under the Administration's feed grains program. Cheap and abundant corn supplies have encouraged an expansion in livestock numbers which is now being reflected in current unfavorable prices.

"Western Kansas cattlemen, who supply great numbers of feeder cattle for the market, seem certain to be adversely affected by the downtrend in feed cattle prices.

"Congress should take a fresh look at the feed grain program before the Administration gets feed grain producers and livestock producers into deeper trouble," Dole said.