

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE PUSHES CROSS COMPLIANCE CORRECTION THROUGH SENATE

WASHINGTON -- SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) LAST NIGHT PUSHED LEGISLATION THROUGH THE SENATE CORRECTING AN ERROR IN THE NEW FARM BILL, WHICH REQUIRED CROSS COMPLIANCE FOR 1986 CROPS. "FARMERS HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITHOUT FALLING INTO LEGAL LOOPHOLES CREATED IN WASHINGTON," DOLE SAID. "I URGE THE HOUSE TO QUICKLY FOLLOW THIS INITIATIVE."

"Many farmers, including a number in Kansas, are caught by this cross compliance requirement with crops planted in excess of their bases. Passage of my bill will allow the USDA to waive cross compliance for 1986 and avoid another year when producers are forced to tear up seeded acreage to be in the program."

Under limited crop compliance, a farmer participating in one commodity program is prohibited from exceeding his acreage base for any other program crop for which an acreage reduction requirement is in effect.

Conferees on the 1985 farm bill intended cross compliance to be discretionary, giving the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to prevent farmers from increasing their bases for crops deemed in surplus while participating in the program for another crop. As a new provision, there was no way for winter wheat and barley producers to anticipate such a cutback on planted acreage before seeding their 1986 crops last fall. As a result, the USDA announced yesterday that they will waive the cross compliance requirement in the farm bill for 1986 crops if Congress passes appropriate legislation.

"This is a purely technical amendment to the farm bill to correct a drafting error," Dole said. "Farmers want this cross compliance problem cleared up immediately -- not bogged down in another protracted farm bill debate. I hope the House will consider my bill as soon as possible and pass a 'clean' version to send to the White House," Dole concluded.